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THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We shall consult an astrologer." (Laughter.)

SRI SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In spite of all the facilities offered, if the management fails to fulfil the conditions, the minor conditions, of the Syndicate as also the conditions imposed by the Government, may I know whether the Government would then consider the desirability of starting a college of their own in a temporary building as suggested by Mr. Bhima Rao? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am afraid not now, Sir."

The Ayurveda Pasu Vaidya Vidya Peetam, Tenali.

* 13 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any application for grant has been recently sent by the Principal, Ayurveda Pasu Vaidya Vidya Peetam, Tenali; and

(b) whether the Government propose to sanction the same?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) The hon. Member is apparently referring to an application sent in April 1949 by Sri Y. Sreeramulu Choudary of the Andhra Jateeya Pasuvaidya Vidya Peetam for the continuance of the grant sanctioned to the Ayurvedic Veterinary Dispensary at Jogannapalam, Dendulur firka.

" (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1950-51—cont.

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before I proceed to make a few observations on the budget presented by Hon. the Finance Minister, I would like to thank the Government for having made a provision for the construction of a college building for the Intermediate college in Cuddapah. (Interruption.) I should also thank the Government for having provided certain funds for the construction of an additional block for the Women's Secondary Training School in Cuddapah and also for the Girls' Secondary School in Proddatur. When I say this, I should not be understood as having an unqualified praise for the Government. Yesterday Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, speaking at a public function, made mention of the fact that it was his ambition to see that every district should be provided with a women's college. But so far as Cuddapah is concerned, I see that Cuddapah has not been provided with a first grade college for men even at present.

" So far as the conversion of the Intermediate College into a first grade one is concerned, much additional expenditure would not be incurred by the Government. The proposal had been

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recommended by the Director of Public Instruction, and I may also state that the proposal did not involve more than 5 to 6 thousand rupees by way of expenditure on the part of the Government. When the Hon. Minister for Education, Sri Madhava Menon visited Cuddapah sometime back, representations were made to him by the public of Cuddapah that the Intermediate College should be converted into a First Grade College. When he made a public utterance to the effect that there would not be much difficulty in converting this Intermediate College into a First Grade College, the public of Cuddapah were very much pleased. But when orders were received by the District Board of Cuddapah, which also requested the Government that the College ought to be converted into a First Grade College, we were very much disappointed that the Government did not want to convert it into a First Grade College at the present. It was said, Sir, by this Government that they were bestowing a special care so far as the Rayalaseema is concerned and it is for that purpose that a Rayalaseema Development Board has been created, and that schemes which have been recommended by that Board would be taken up for early execution. May I state in this connection that this is one of the proposals which has been recommended by the Rayalaseema Development Board. Sir, I may state that this Board is not an irresponsible body. It is presided over by Hon. Minister Sri Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Land Revenue and some members of the Legislature are also its members. I take it that there are some Government officials also in it. If such a Board has recommended this proposal, I fail to see the justification for not converting this Intermediate College into a First Grade College. After all, we did not want that courses which were available in other Colleges in the ceded district should be opened there. We wanted to have the B.Com. course. The opening of that course would not involve much expenditure. I understand that this course is in a great demand and accommodation is there and every responsible body has recommended it. If the Government is really anxious to cater to the needs of the backward area, I fail to see the reason why they have not provided this small amount. After all we have not asked that these courses should be duplicated—courses which are available in Anantapur, Chittoor or Madanapalle Colleges need not be duplicated. So this aspect of the question has to be considered. If nothing concrete is done, people will begin to think that the Board is only a mere eye wash. The Government should then be prepared to take up the charge of the people that the Government say one thing and do another thing. I submit that no useful purpose is being served by adding to the number of the other Departments or officials who are charged with the duty of recommending the proposals if they are not to be accepted.

“I may also be permitted to state another thing. That is, the Rayalaseema Development Board has recently recommended the starting of paints industry in Cuddapah district. This House might perhaps be aware that this area is rich in mines and

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minerals. Before you can start the paints industry, it should be the duty of the Government to see that barytes is extracted and that the people who are anxious to work on the mines in the district should be given all opportunities to do so. But unfortunately, I find from the little experience that I have that prospects of working in the mines are completely blocked and a very large area from which this barytes can be extracted, has been given away by way of lease to a company which is not able to pay its servants their monthly salaries. The servants of this company had come to me and represented to me more than once that some legislation ought to be introduced so that this company could not keep arrears of pay. Such a company is given a licence and also additional plot. When applications have been made by residents of the district, their applications have been examined, plots have been surveyed and it is nearly more than three years from the date of their applications that even to this day they have not been disposed of on some ground or other. No doubt, the Government might say that the rules with regard to the grant of licence are so stringent, so elaborate or so rigorous. Whatever may be the reason, it is nearly three years that applications have been made and yet they have not been disposed of. If there has been so much delay with regard to the disposal of these applications, how can one expect the district to prosper or how can one expect any industrialist to take his chances. Most of their time is simply wasted in going to Madras to see the Members of the Board of Revenue or to see some official or other, but practically nothing has been done. Therefore may I request this Government to bestow greater attention for the disposal of these applications and see that their applications are disposed of at the quickest possible time.

“ So far as the irrigation projects are concerned, I submit that the Government have not been very considerate, so far as the Cuddapah district is concerned. The Gandikota project which has been thought of a very long time ago and for which gauges also have been obtained was expected to be taken up as a post-war reconstruction scheme even in 1946-47. But for some reason or other, whereas other schemes which were mentioned in the post-war reconstruction scheme have been taken up for execution in other districts, this particular project has been postponed. The reason is no doubt given that gauging is not yet complete and that some more investigation is necessary. When an explanation of that sort is given, it is very difficult for a lay man like myself to say that the scheme ought to be taken up immediately. But then there are people clamouring in the district that while irrigation projects which were mentioned in the post-war reconstruction scheme have been taken up in other districts of the Presidency, why should not this project of ours also be taken up for execution. Another difficulty which is presenting itself with regard to this scheme is I understand, that the project is linked up with the Sangameswaram Project.”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ It is not so.”

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* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Very well, Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister for Public Works. At any rate there was a wrong impression that this project is being delayed in consideration of the fact that the Sangameswaram Project is going to be implemented and probably less expenditure would be involved on account of that. When I hear the statement of the Hon. Minister for Public Works, I am really satisfied and I accept his statement and thank him very much for that. If it is not linked up with that project, still the question arises as to why it has not been taken up for execution. At this stage I do not propose to raise any controversies. We have had enough of them. I do not suspect for a moment that the Tamil-Telugu controversy would have contributed in any way to ignoring the interests of the Rayalaseema. Let me tell the Government that whatever the origin of the controversy may be and whatever the merits of the controversy may be, we are not very much interested in it. We are only interested in seeing that this district should develop and develop at the proper time. What I would like to submit here is that if the project is not executed at the proper time, we will still go backwards, whereas other districts of the Presidency which take advantage of various technical inventions go forward and advance their prosperity. The distance between these two will be so great that at no measurable time we can reach them. We have to remain backward whereas other districts which take advantage of these improvements go forward and forward and we will be left backward. Therefore my submission to the Government is the moment that they think of executing these projects, they should implement them straight-away.

“ With regard to the administration of the Police and the working of the Prohibition Act, I would like to make one or two observations. When the Prohibition Bill was discussed, I was one of those who were very very enthusiastic about the successful working of this Prohibition Act. I expected that it would usher a millennium. I thought that it would put an end to all the grave crimes in the province. But after I have seen the working of the Act for a fairly long time, I have to submit that I have changed my opinion and I am doubtful as to whether this Prohibition Act could be successfully worked at all, by any Government. Criticisms have been levelled that co-operation from the public is not forthcoming. I do agree that the amount of co-operation that was expected from the public is not forthcoming. But, have the Government tried to know as to why that co-operation is not forthcoming. It is very easy to say, ‘ This Act requires the full co-operation of the public. You don’t co-operate with us. Therefore the Act has not been successful ’. My submission to this House is that the co-operation of the public is not forthcoming, because co-operation means so much of difficulty, to a person who wants to co-operate in the working of this Act. It is beset with so many difficulties. Take the case of a person who wants to give information about a prohibition offender. What happens? The

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Police man or the prohibition officer who investigates into these matters will come and arrest the person, examine later the offender as well as the informant. In the end, the case will be the acquittal of the offender or his conviction. There the officer's duty ends. But the informant has to live side by side with the offender in the village. When the offender comes back to the village, what is the kind of protection that is afforded to the informant? No protection is given. When the offender assaults or beats or sets fire to the house or sets fire to the hay stacks of the informant, what is the protection that is being afforded by the Government. He is thrown out on his own resources. This Act can be worked only with the hearty co-operation of the public. But, when the public owing to various reasons are not willing to offer their co-operation, it is really a matter to be seriously considered by the Government whether the successful working of this Act is at all possible. Hon. Ex-Minister Sri Koti Reddi dwelt at great length on the floor of the Assembly about the way in which this Act has been working. If the Act did not work properly, we can only bemoan our fate that an Act has been placed in the Statute Book and yet it is not successfully working. I may state, in this connexion, that the prohibition officials when they go out for detection of offences should be given adequate protection. It was reported at one of our District Conferences that the officials were often beaten by the offenders whenever they try to apprehend them, and the reason advanced by the officials for this was that they were not provided with arms and ammunition just like the Police people. I submit that the Government should take the earliest opportunity of supplying these people with arms and ammunition so that they may be assured of better security against attack which will go a long way in the detection of crimes and the administration of the Prohibition Act more successfully.

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“ With regard to Police administration, I should really thank the Government for having accepted one of my suggestions in the matter of opening Police stations at their own cost in factious villages. In the past, whenever there was faction in any village and the Government found it possible to put it down, the Government used to open Police stations in the affected village and make the villagers there meet the cost involved in maintaining that station there. But my contention from the very beginning has been that it is the responsibility of the Government to open such stations and the burden of maintenance of these should not be borne by the villagers. Sir, perhaps in accordance with my advice, the Government have opened additional Police stations where factions are on the increase and I am glad that in Cuddapah also there are now more stations opened in the interests of law and order. Indeed, I feel it is very necessary that the number of Police stations should be generally increased now. In the past when the Police stations were first established, there was probably not so much crime and the normal reasons that should weigh for opening more stations were not present.

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“ Sir, I am one with the Government in saying that the security measures should be tightened up. I know we are living in difficult times. When we see round about discontent is evident. Look at places beyond our State. In East Bengal, we see terrible things happening. We see horrifying scenes being enacted there. Added to these, Sir, I know that the Communists are a menace to us. They are adepts in the art of committing crimes. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary that this menace which is growing should be nipped now in the bud. But, I find, that in the name of combating communism, in very many places, the police officials have been over-stepping their limits and some of them have been taking sides and indulging in acts of shooting innocent lives. May I submit, Sir, that in every case of police firing there should be a regular judicial enquiry in order to allay the suspicions of the people? In this connexion, I should congratulate the Government on their having instituted an enquiry into the recent shooting in the Salem jail. A similar enquiry, I suggest, may be held in every case of police firing . . . ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ If there is a lathi charge? ”

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ Lathi charge is not so serious as firing. Firing involves a greater chance of killing people. Further, I remember the case of a Police Chief and a District Magistrate not agreeing *in toto* on all the facts that led to the opening of the firing. There are thus differences of opinion on this matter and so it is a matter for the Government to see that judicial enquiry is instituted whenever there is firing. Such an enquiry will satisfy the people that the firing has been done in the interests of the people themselves, if that act was found justifiable. After all, it is very difficult to control the Police force once it gets into the habit of shooting. Our Prime Minister himself, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, if I remember aright, has said, during one of his visits to Bengal, that in every case of police firing there ought to be a judicial enquiry. My Hon. Friend, the Minister for Finance, knows that sufficient steps have not been taken by the Government for putting down factions in the villages. The usual routine work of having cases filed in a court of law and then bringing the offenders to book is not sufficient to put down such grave crimes. It ought to be examined why these crimes have been committed and this work can be done better than instituting a committee I have just now suggested. I submit that a committee be instituted for this purpose which may be asked to go into the question thoroughly and carefully and the Government should accept the recommendations of such a committee without any reservation.

“ Sir, I come next to the nationalization of electricity. It would be of course easy for the Government to take up inefficient units like those in Proddatur. When I make mention of these units, I see that the Hon. the Finance Minister, the Hon. Minister for Prohibition and the Hon. the Public Works Minister are

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smiling. (Laughter.) I really do not know what their idea is, but it may be like this. My Hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi, for whom I have got the greatest regard, might say, 'What is the use of this propaganda after all? Do you think it is going to make us change our minds? We are where we are and we will be there until we are determined to do otherwise.' If he were to say like this, I should only be sorry for him. I should think that his experience as Minister has made him come to such a conclusion. But, all the same, propaganda has its own value. The Nazification of Germany was due to persistent propaganda. The German people were converted to the Nazi doctrine by its being constantly dinning into their ears. But on a careful examination I find that propaganda does not pay so much nowadays, at any rate, with our Government. They say they will not change their minds until the atmosphere is favourable. So it is my duty to keep on dinning into their ears my case so that they may not forget it. I know that the Government have got the best interests of Cuddapah at heart and the Hon. the Minister for Public Works has already promised to look into the problems facing this district . . ."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Not only have I promised, but we have taken up the work so far as Proddatur is concerned."

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—"I am grateful to the Hon. the Minister. Yesterday when I met the Deputy Chief Engineer in this connexion, he told me that financial sanction had not yet been received. As soon as financial sanction is received the new engine will be installed and I was assured that supply of power will be given immediately. Sir, I have also received a telegram from the people of my place asking me to make mention about this matter in my budget speech. (Laughter.) Therefore, I thank the Hon. the Minister for his assurance not only on behalf of myself but of those whom I represent. They have been suffering for the last three years for want of electrical energy and therefore supply of power would make them go ahead with their agricultural operations which will help the Grow More Food Scheme also."

"Then, Sir, with regard to the supply of yarn, I would like to say a word or two. The weavers were suffering very much by their stocks not being sold at proper prices. The reasons are obvious. Very recently there seems to be some demand for cloths of finer variety and these weavers have come and represented to me that they do not get yarn of the superior quality—80 and 90 counts and that all that they get is only the coarse variety which they do not want. May I request the Government to see that yarn of superior counts is supplied to these weavers and their need satisfied?"

"One thing more, Sir, and I have done. The Rayalaseema Development Commissioner, in his report, has stated that the roads in those areas are particularly bad and that more grants should be made for improving their condition. The soil also, I find, is so bad that it is very difficult to construct roads, especially

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after the advent of bus traffic and lorry traffic. The people living in towns there are suffering very much and they contract all sorts of diseases. It should, therefore, be the duty of the Government to see that the roads which pass through major panchayats and municipalities are converted into dustless surface roads to wipe out the dust nuisance."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" What about the poor villages? "

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" If the Government have got the interests of the villager at heart, I thank them. (Laughter.) Let not the Government think that I do not care for them and that I want them neglect their interests.

" In the end, Sir, I would like to state that the position of the ryot should be improved. The present method of distribution of agricultural implements is woeful. The ryots still remain unsatisfied. So far as the administration of controls is concerned, it gives greater pain to see that the ryots suffer more than any one else on account of it. Therefore, I request that the Government should see that more agricultural implements are supplied at reasonable rates to the ryots."

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I begin my speech by congratulating the Hon. the Chief Minister, the Hon. the Finance Minister and the other Hon. Ministers for their efforts to improve the conditions in the State and we are thankful to the Hon. the Finance Minister in particular that he has not burdened this over-burdened State with any more taxation. I am glad that he has not taxed motor vehicles any further (laughter) as otherwise we would all have to use the bus sooner or later. When I speak on this subject, I am thinking of those people who use motor cars for charitable purposes . . . "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Exemption has been given in respect of such vehicles."

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" After one and a half years of fight with the Hon. the Minister for Finance, he has given us exemption in respect of one of our vehicles.

" I am glad that once a year we have the opportunity to congratulate and also to express to the Government the difficulties of the common man and woman, as well as the omission of the Government in various field connected with the well-being of the community as a whole. We are glad to note in the budget presented by the Hon. the Minister for Finance that the Government have concentrated larger efforts in the field of education and we are glad to see that more schools are to be started and that existing schools as well as colleges are to be improved. The colleges for arts, dance and music are being expanded and new colleges started and it is gratifying to note that an allotment has been made for schools for defective children besides special library for children and expansion of visual education schemes but in congratulating Government on the increase of basic schools I would like to plead that the existing nursery schools should continue to exist.

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I see there is also provision for visual education. The Hon. the Ministers for Education and Public Information should try and have news pictures of the many activities in our Province. Number of people are ignorant of the many good things that are being carried on for the poor and the needy both by the Governmental and other organizations and individuals. We have been lacking in publicity. I believe the Hon. Finance Minister will consider my request and make a small grant for this purpose.

“ Now, Sir, regarding Guiding and Scouting, I see that the Educational Department is trying to put much emphasis on citizenship and that has certainly retarded to a great extent the activities of Guiding and Scouting. The other day our Hon. Minister for Education presided at one of our rallies of Blue Birds and praised our activities. We would appreciate if the Hon. the Minister for Education would increase the grant for three organizations which, to all purposes, are united in their activities in this Province and a greater movement on an all-India basis is on its way. Guiding and Scouting teach young people discipline, friendship and goodwill which is hard to find on any other platform. I would, therefore, request the Hon. the Minister for Education to increase the allotment for Guiding and Scouting in the Province.

“ Then, Sir, the Government appointed a committee to recommend a scheme for camps for youths in the City and Scouting alround the countryside. The committee made recommendations. As usual the Government shelved the recommendation. On being reminded the Government took it up and again asked us to make a smaller budget for the scheme. We have done so and we do not know what has happened to the scheme. That is now over two years old. In other countries we see what emphasis Government and non-official agencies put on youth movements and games. The tour of young boys and girls from one Province to another would create lot of goodwill among them. I pray that you will also take it up without any further delay.

“ Again I refer to the School of Social Service. Two and a half years ago we the social workers took up the scheme. The Government after repeated requests were pleased to appoint a committee and this committee submitted a scheme and this was shelved by Government as usual. Subsequently the Government asked us to give moderate budget. The committee worked very hard and submitted a scheme with a non-recurring budget of Rs. 20 thousands and a recurring budget of Rs. 20 thousands. Recently we were offered a free house for the school, but in spite of my deputation to the Minister and to the concerned departments no reply came and we have lost the house. I hope, perhaps, the Educational Minister would wave his magic wand and allot a house for the purpose overnight. There are many young boys and girls waiting to take up the social work. It is no good having social workers who are not trained for the job. In other countries and other Provinces like Bombay and United Provinces and in other cities and everywhere the Governments are giving their utmost support to the voluntary organizations and pioneers that bring in schemes that are both beneficial and also in keeping with

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the time and requirements of the country to-day. I say, Sir, Government ought to use these organizations and the services of the individuals and help them and encourage them not by mere charming words but by practical aid and grants of money. I, therefore, hope that before long the scheme submitted by the committee would be sanctioned.

“Regarding the education of ex-servicemen's children, it is very deplorable that certain concessions have been cut out to the dependents of ex-servicemen's children. The ex-servicemen have sacrificed much more than any civilian could have done. He leaves the home at very short notice. It does not matter whether his wife is ill or whatever it is and he is put on duty. While he goes on duty and guards your frontiers, he should know that his family is alright and that his necessities of life are there for him and his family. I think the Government is rather hard in this Province than other Provinces, on the ex-servicemen. Only yesterday the Air Chief Marshal said that no serviceman could give you good service unless he knows of the home and hearth and his family conditions are good. I would implore the Government to consider this and help the ex-servicemen and their children so that they may have better trust.

“Now, coming to the Medical and Public Health work, we are glad that the Medical and Public Health Department has got fairly good amount but the Hon. the Minister for Education has taken much more money. Public health is much more important than education. That is at least my humble opinion. We are glad to know that the budget provides for improvement to hospitals, maternity and child-welfare centres and improvements in water-supply arrangements and appointment of a few extra staff. But may I ask when these schemes are to come into force. I see that at last the Government are giving a grant for the building of a new ward in the Monegar Choultry. I wish the Hon. Ministers would visit this hospital which is in such a poor state and see for themselves where the children of the nation are being born. It is in such a deplorable condition. The grant has been made and I hope the buildings would be put up, and trust they won't give some excuse that the Public Works Department did not get the material and so on, and therefore the scheme was shelved. Schemes have been submitted by Superintendents of hospitals for minor improvements which, if carried out, could go far towards the ease and comfort of the patients and others who attend on them. For instance, I quote the instance of the wall which is very low in the Ophthalmic Hospital. When the patients eat the urchins come over the wall and take away the food as the patients are blind. Representations were made, and sanction was accorded for raising the wall. But as usual, Sir, no work has been carried out.

“Doctors and nurses are overstaffed. (Interruption : ‘Over-worked’.) Yes, they are overworked. I am not criticising them. The menial staff is very badly paid and many malpractices do go on. Doctors get angry if we pass remarks. But we make it our duty to see things in the hospitals and we have a right to talk

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about it and in this connexion I congratulate 'The Mail' for the articles in this regard. They do speak of true facts. Large nurses' quarters for the General Hospital are being built and I congratulate the Government on this effort. I ask the Hon. Minister for Public Health if he has seen the nurses' quarters in the Rayapuram Hospital. So many nurses are put into a single room and these nurses work for long hours in the wards in one of the largest hospitals in the City. Is it fair, Sir, that these ladies who are doing such humanitarian work, should be denied the necessary rest to build up their energies for the next day's work and how is this rest possible in ill-ventilated and overcrowded quarters. Again, I understand that the scheme put up by the Superintendent of the hospital for improvement of the nurses' quarters has been scrapped and it is suggested that the nurses should go and live in the quarters for the General Hospital nurses and then come to Rayapuram. Firstly it is impractical. It will cost Government more by way of transport, because they will have to spend a lot on petrol in bringing these nurses from the General Hospital to Rayapuram and take them back to their quarters. Secondly the nurses' energies are wasted by journeys to and fro as they have to rise early and return late. I also understand that this will entail three trips per day which takes away from their volume of work. It is imperative that the nurses' quarters should be near the hospital they work in. I hope the Government will recognize this and think over the matter.

"We are glad that the Government is giving more money to encourage and improve Diversional Therapy in Mental Hospital as well as in other hospitals of the City. I wonder if the Government will appreciate and acknowledge that this effort was first started in all hospitals of the City by the Guild of Service (Seva Samajam) and still continue to be done in the hospitals and give this organization a donation. Then, Sir, our slums, and other things. We went the other day with the Commissioner of our Corporation to see the slums. I think the men who live on our streets are luckier men than those who live in these slums which are stinking. The sanitary arrangements of the slums is a disgrace and I do not think any citizen has a right to live in his house if he does not see to the betterment of these people who live in slums. I would request you to get yourselves interested in the slum areas in the Province.

"We are glad to know that the Government is encouraging the building of more T.B. Sanatoria and improving leprosy work but I am sorry that the Government are not fully alive to the oft-repeated warning of the spread and increase of venereal disease. We have as the Dean of the Government Medical College, Dr. R. V. Rajam, the Specialist in venereal disease and Government should be more alive to the disease which is robbing the nation of a great deal of physical wealth. I repeat this warning of mine because one of the organizations—the Seva Samajam with which I am connected—is also helping in this work in a small way. If we voluntary workers brave the open criticisms of a not very kind public on occasions and tackle this delicate problem to bring it to the notice of the public and the Government, surely it is

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Government's duty to go into this matter more seriously and also to provide in the budget an allotment to purchase in large quantities up-to-date medicines for curing this disease than the long drawn out and painful methods that have been adopted in the past.

"Then, Sir, I come to my pet subjects the Certified School, Vigilance Homes and Juvenile Delinquency work, as a whole. It is a very appropriate thing that the Minister for Jails should also be the Minister for Education. He has got a very fine heart and very strong feeling for the poor children. (Interruption and laughter.) I feel that the Hon. Minister would please take away the Certified Schools from the purview of jails and put it under the Education Department. The Minister attended a conference at New Delhi in July and says that he is awaiting the Delhi decision. How often, Sir, has Madras waited for the decision of the Centre. When you introduced prohibition you took it on yourself. When it comes to the care of the young neglected children, why do you want to wait for the Centre's approval? This can be easily done. I would urge the Hon. Minister in all humility to pass early orders in this matter. I congratulate the Hon. Minister and his staff in Certified Schools on the improvements they have made. In spite of all this there are many defects which are not beneficial to the children. The assistants are appointed on very poor salaries and many malpractices do go on. The result is they cannot bestow sufficient care—there is lack of responsibility and unsatisfactory things take place. One cannot blame the Secretary or the Society but the reason is meagre and inadequate salaries that are paid to the staff who are the guardians of the children. The care of the child should be in well-trained hands whether they be children from the poor homes or better class homes they are the gift of the nation and nation's first care. You cannot know these things, Sir, busy men as you are. We are busy women and yet try to bring these things to your notice, Sir.

"I am very sorry, Sir, that the Children's Bill is still on the anvil of legislation. I refer to it in my capacity firstly as a Juvenile Court Magistrate and secondly as one connected with Certified Schools and Children's Aid Society. The Government, or the people concerned with the running of the department, has not had the courtesy to inform us about the bringing in of the Act. Of course, I know, it has been published in the Press and public opinion has been called for. It is the duty of the Government. But I say, Sir, we are the people who are very much interested and concerned in the matter. It would have been very creditable if the Government had thought of welcoming our suggestions. My Society and myself feel strongly on this subject.

"Then again, Sir, we are glad to know that Government have improved the status of the Vigilance officers, that the education, food and other allowances for the girls and their well-being have been budgeted for. But we do very much regret the attitude that the Government have taken to the co-operation and the help offered. Every time I raise a point about immoral traffic in the City, the Hon. Minister replies 'There is no increase.' I say, Sir, it is continuously on the increase. The immoral traffic

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that is going on in the City is a disgrace to the Government. If you want I will show a file of letters that I am receiving every day of the deplorable state of these deserted wives and other unhappy victims. (Interruption.) I have repeatedly asked you to appoint women police and women patrollers. You go on saying that there is no need for women police. The Madras Vigilance Association cannot wait any longer. It has decided to raise money and have patrollers and do what little it can to those who ask for help and let those who are openly carrying on this trade know that public opinion is strong and is against what is happening. We know most important streets in the City are being used for immoral purpose and soliciting is going on in all the places. If, Sir, in the past, the Vigilance officers could run the Rescue Home and do patrolling, why is it, Sir, that it is now not possible? Sir, I have a letter with me now—which is one of the many our Association receives. Its contents do not do credit either to the Government or to the City of Madras.

“ About women police, the Hon. Ministers have different views. If they are useful in other Provinces in India, why are they not useful here, Sir? The other day we interviewed about 75 lady applicants for appointment as patrollers on Rs. 75 per month. They were all very fine, well qualified women but we were sorry we could make only one appointment and we turned away all the others. Therefore, there is no excuse, Sir, to say that there are no women ready for the job or useful for the job.

“ Sir, the Women's Welfare Department is one of the finest organizations that the Madras Government has started in 1941. This institution is the only one of its kind in India. It has been visited and favourably commented upon by people from all over the country and outside. It has a very good officer as its head, Mrs. Naidu, and it has on its Advisory Body women of experience—both political and social workers. The increasing popularity of the department can be seen from the many requests to open branches in several places. There are *Community Service Centres* in 26 towns and 40 rural branches serving a real purpose in regard to social education and citizenship training, adult literacy and cottage industries, including charka spinning, Hindi, etc. Field work has considerably increased and so has administrative work and each Woman Welfare Officer should be provided with a lower division clerk.

12 noon.

“ Another important matter is this. We know the difficulties of securing good workers who have to be trained for work. This year 30 welfare workers are undergoing training but no provision has been made for the next batch of workers who are urgently required.

“ Mr. G. Ramachandran in his report says that he wished that the Women's Welfare Department could, without delay, establish branches in all the firkas. In his own words, he says, ‘ Women have begun to feel the warmth of the new work and, therefore, the Government should concentrate on training and sending their women workers to the firkas because they will be able to make

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use of the awakening among women.' Besides this it is very important that we should have a midwife both for maternity work and for village work on Gandhian principles along with the Welfare Worker.

"There are 100 inmates in the Service Home in Rayapuram but no provision has been made for admitting 50 more. There are a large number of needy women and girls awaiting admission. Again, the Service Home in the Andhra area, which is urgently needed has also not been sanctioned. Surely, when the Government could give grants for improvement of Colleges and hospitals, was it not essential that they should have budgeted for this home for helpless girls?

"Again, the demand for an allotment of Rs. 2,000 for a Women's Home to receive unprotected girls that come into the City has not been sanctioned. The Stri Sadan can only take in women and girls who come under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act. What about other destitute women and young girls who come into this City whose honour and welfare is as important as that of the other women? I know that the Finance Minister is very keenly interested in this department. (Laughter.)

"We hope that the request of the Women's Welfare Department for placing the women and children's work under them would be favourably considered by Government.

"We are glad to know that the Hon. Mr. A. B. Shetty has been encouraging the Grow More Food Campaign and that large allotments have been made for the Grow More Food campaign as well as for Irrigation Schemes which are most essential for our Province. It would be most useful for food production if the Government would legislate that every landholder should grow on his land one-third at least of the foodstuffs that are suitable to the soil and climate and which are in daily use. I would once again request the Government to appoint a woman on the State Grow More Food Committee. Women know the needs of the kitchen and the difficulties in regard to the various foodgrains. I hope the Hon. Minister will think of putting one or two women on these committees.

"Sir, we are very glad that the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam has very good schemes of public works—irrigation, buildings, etc. But there is a small question which I have been interested in for a long time. In the House Committee, we have been asking that better galleries should be provided for visitors in the House. There are tall and short persons among the visitors and we only provide them with benches as for school children and they are very uncomfortable. How can we expect our visitors to sit and listen to our speeches for an hour or two if we do not make provision for their sitting comfortably?

"Sir, the Finance Minister has taxed us to the limit. He has made it difficult, due to the many rules and regulations for social workers to raise money for charity. It is the legitimate duty of the Government to finance and help social welfare organizations.

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But if Government have no finance and willing social workers are there to take on their responsibility and do this work as a labour of love, surely the Government should not put restrictions to the effort and stop every form of raising money for charities. Sir, Government are bringing in every restriction they can. As I have said earlier, I have never gambled in life, but what wrong is there if we have raffles? This, Sir, is now illegal. If we have any game of skill, it is twisted into a game of chance. Sir, social service organizations feel that the Government are forcing their hands to close the many institutions that have been useful to the public.

“ Sir, if we run a Carnival, we have the embarrassment of the Police visiting our stalls and stating that even games of skill like darts are games of chance. Public donations do not come now as they did in the past. Where we used to get Rs. 100 we cannot now get even one rupee. When we approach them, they say, ‘ Ask the Finance Minister to give the money, because he has taken away so much by way of taxation ’.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ They mean the Finance Minister of the Government of India.” (Laughter.)

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“ No, Sir, they mean our Finance Minister. Owing to the abolition of the zamindaris, we cannot get anything from the zamindars who used to help us before. We cannot get anything from the ordinary members of the public. All voluntary effort is being crushed. If, therefore, you cannot give us money by way of grants, please make up your minds and say that social service organizations may be permitted to do this when they run amusements to raise money for charities.

“ Again in other Provinces Government backing is given to social workers and paid workers are fairly well paid and helped. But here, Sir, few such things occur and I think our Government do not realize how much social work is done in this Province and how much goodwill is given by the general public. I have the opportunity of meeting men and women from other parts of India, America, Australia and United Kingdom who visit our country and every one of them feel how specialized is our social work and how much goodwill the workers show and ask, ‘ why is it so little encouragement is given by Government ? ’ You give large sums of money for Harijan Welfare and for development of education. They are necessary and useful activities. But along with them please bear in mind that there are other activities that need your help and encouragement. The country is made up of all kinds of people and all types of services and if you say that you are fair to all, then I would request the Hon. Ministers to pay more attention and give more encouragement to work for the poor and needy—a work perhaps which would bring to the notice of the Government true facts and figures. Surely it is only love of service that makes us leave the easier life at home, and it is not the limelight of publicity that matters. It is for that satisfaction at the end of the day that we have worked and given our time to others we work with

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such zeal. Our Chief Minister has a very kind heart. He has always given us every encouragement and so have the other Ministers. We want you to put into practice your goodwill to us. You will not have political discontent if you would be more serious about the usefulness of social work and the role of the social worker. My appeal for an Honorary Director for Social Welfare or that one of the present Ministers should take on this portfolio has had no response.

"I am glad to know that the Hon. Minister for Public Health, Dr. Rajan, who is a very gallant gentleman, has, in spite of his being many years my senior, taken the advice of a very junior person like me and had been good enough to appoint on the Hospital Boards, men and women social workers who have been working in these hospitals as visitors—social workers who know the usefulness of such work—and with no disparagement to my colleagues in both Houses, other social workers have the opportunity to serve the nation.

"Sir, I thank the Hon. the Chief Minister once again. He has been very kind to social workers and he has given every encouragement. Let him show his kindness in the matter of financing this work. This is the last budget discussion in which I may perhaps be participating. The elections will be coming next year and I may not be here."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—"There is nomination of social workers."

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—"I hope a day will come, when perhaps I am twenty years older, when there will be a Minister for Social Work."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, after having listened to the charming speech of the hon. Member Mrs. Clubwala, after the gallant manner in which bouquets have been exchanged between Mrs. Clubwala and the Members of the Treasury Bench, I feel somewhat hesitant to speak in a manner which may seem a little more harsh than necessary. I am sorry that Mrs. Clubwala did not give a bouquet to the Leader of the Opposition also. That is rather a disappointment.

"Sir, the budget that has been presented to us is the first budget after the inauguration of the Republic. I think it should have been presented according to Article 202 of the Constitution and the rules laid down under the Constitution. It is a matter for regret that it has not been possible for the Government of the day, in spite of any references that have been made or any promises that have been made, to present the budget in the manner in which it should have been presented under the Constitution. If we are to take our duties seriously and abide by the Constitution, it should be the endeavour of one and all of us to see that the Articles of the Constitution are kept as faithfully as possible.

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While I regret this procedure, I must at the same time state that we are glad that the Finance Ministers, both of the State and of the Centre, have for the first time since what is known as popular Assemblies came into existence, presented budgets which do not add to the taxes of the people who are already over-taxed. In that respect, the Finance Minister and his colleagues deserve our congratulations. For I do believe that the budget which is presented by the Finance Minister is the budget of the Cabinet and not of the Finance Minister himself. While the Finance Minister is properly the spokesman on behalf of the Cabinet, I feel that whatever congratulations are due should go to the whole Cabinet. I emphasise this point, because it is necessary for Members of the Government to realise that for every important measure that is placed before the House is a measure for which collective responsibility should be taken. There have been instances in the past when, I am afraid, Ministers did not feel that collective responsibility. There have been instances in the past where a change of Ministers, despite the same party being in power, led to differences in policies. I deeply regret that such things should have happened. Some of them have been certainly to the good, for the Government are entitled to change their policies for the better. But when individual Ministers sometimes do dominate and formulate policies of their own, I feel that there is room for us to suspect. It is certainly not for the good of the people at large. It will certainly be to the detriment of democratic procedure and Cabinet responsibility if individual Ministers were to take on their own shoulders responsibility for large policies in matters entrusted to them.

" Sir, I have perused this budget over and over again and I flattered myself that I was not very much deficient in what they call the intelligence of the average man. But I must confess, having perused this budget over and over again, it has not been possible for me to understand the implication of the budget. The figures given in the innumerable pages do not really represent all the information that is to be placed before this House for an intelligent appreciation.

" Sir, I have stated in the past and I repeat the suggestion again for what it is worth. In this House at any rate, till the new rules of procedure come into force, we will not have much opportunity of discussing the details with regard to the various items in the budget. We are therefore not in a position to know exactly what the position is with regard to the policies and procedures of the different departments entrusted to individual Ministers. I therefore suggest to the Government and to the Chief Minister in particular that when the budget is presented to this House, after the speech of the Finance Minister, every Member will be glad to sit for 2 or 3 hours and listen to each individual Minister giving his own account of his stewardship in the past year and a forecast of his stewardship in the next year. That is the only way of giving reliable information to the Members of the House and making them take an intelligent part

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in the discussion of the budget. I mean no reflection upon my colleagues when I say that some of our comments are not always intelligent or intelligible. But the fault is not ours. The fault is of the Treasury Bench which gives us the scantiest possible information in their budget proposals and their memoranda. I have been going through these memoranda till my eyes were tired and I could not go further in reading through them. Very little information was available on matters on which I had to seek such information. I shall refer to two or three things. The Zamindari Act was passed. What is the exact position to-day with regard to the zamindari system, the taking over of the zamins, the position of the zamin ryots, the lands under cultivation in these areas and the amount that is derived by the Government from these. Take again the judicial services. What exactly is the position of the judicial services? Are these not matters about which this House is entitled to receive information from a responsible Minister?

“Take again the position with regard to the Grow More Food campaign. It is not enough to give information when a debate is raised. But during the budget when the annual assessment of the work and worth of the departments is being made, it should be the duty of individual Ministers to give a brief statement with regard to each one of the departments. I hope that in future at any rate that policy will be adopted not only in the interests of the hon. Members of this House, but even more in the interests of individual Ministers and the Cabinet as a whole. I now come to some figures. You will find that in 1945-46 the total revenues were Rs. 47.99 crores which included a sum of Rs. 16.80 crores derived from what was known as tainted revenue. We are free from that taint to-day. I would congratulate the Government for it. Although individuals may not be free either in groups or in certain villages or other places, we can say that we are free. I do not want to question the position that the Government have taken. I really accept that prohibition is a policy that has come to stay. With regard to this revenue, if you take away this tainted money from the account of the 1945-46 budget, the actual revenue is Rs. 31.19 crores. In 1949-50 the actual revenue is Rs. 56.91 crores. In other words, over Rs. 25 crores and nearly Rs. 26 crores is the additional revenue which the Hon. Finance Minister has got from the people of this presidency. Between 1945-46 and 1949-50, additional taxation to the extent of 80 per cent of the actual yield of the revenues of this presidency has been the levy which the people of this presidency have had to pay by way of taxation. Possibly we must just bite our lips and smile, and I would smile also; but when the Hon. the Finance Minister . . .”

12-15
p.m.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“Contributions from the Centre have also contributed to that large increase, and the post-war development schemes and the income-tax, etc.”

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“Very well, Sir; I think it is indisputable that the larger share of the

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money must have come from additional taxation in this Province. But I feel it rather difficult to agree with the Hon. the Finance Minister when he says that the 'Madras Government do not regret the loss of this revenue, as they believe that it has been more than made up by the increase in the general standard of living of the poorer people'. I should have been very happy if the Hon. the Finance Minister had given us some more particulars of this magnificent manner in which the general standard of living of the poorer people has been increased during these few years. One may go round and ask these poor people I say that with no intention of criticizing this Government, for I know it is the case with all Provincial Governments, and to a certain extent it is due to fate more than anything else—the general feeling among the poorer people is that while they are put to harder means of earning their livelihood, while they are put to harder methods of making both ends meet, of having their usual kanji whenever they wanted to have it, the Government were making them adopt harder means for obtaining the bare necessities of life,—the minimum clothing, the minimum food, water to drink, and the minimum protection from sun and rain. That is a point which we cannot forget; but if we do forget, then we will be forgetting the very effort that is necessary to correct this—not that the Government are responsible, but a concatenation of circumstances for which probably none of us was, but fate was responsible—but we must realise and it is time we realise the exact state of affairs, so that alleviating measures may be made applicable wherever necessary.

“Sir, apart from the question of this increase, it has also been said and probably a first look of it may give the impression that in the nation-building activities, much larger sums have been expended now than ever before. A superficial reading of the figures will probably reveal that for instance while in Education over Rs. 3 crores and 60 lakhs were spent in 1945-46, over Rs. 9½ crores are being spent in the year 1949-50 and almost a like sum in the year 1950-51. I am extremely appreciative of this large amount; but let us take what may be called an accurate method of the advance that this denotes. I am glad that they have given over Rs. 9½ crores to education, but is it all towards the spreading of education? How does it go? I may say that by the increase in the prices of foodstuffs, by the increase of price in respect of every commodity that is necessary for education, the bulk of this amount necessarily goes towards giving a meagre relief out of the relief that is now being said to be given to the poor people, also in the nature of buildings, in the nature of equipment, in the nature of providing those essential amenities that are so very necessary for school and collegiate education—and for that the bulk of the amount goes. In other words, one has now to spend about three times what one was spending in the year 1945-46 towards the maintenance of school and collegiate education. So, while I feel grateful that these large amounts are being made available, I must also state that these amounts do not represent in full the impression that one may gain that these

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amounts are three times the amounts that were spent in the year 1945-46 towards education in our Province. And, Sir, the same is true of many other departments of Government.

“ The Hon. Finance Minister in discussing the general sales-tax, did speak of the Central Government and the likelihood of their passing certain legislation which may probably diminish the quantum of sales-tax that will be available to this Province. It is true that in the Constitution there is provision made for such a purpose. It is also true that in the Constitution many large powers are given to the Centre in regard to taxation. I was one of those who raised their feeble voice of protest, a voice of protest that was not even heard in this House on one occasion, and when repeated, produced a very minor response indeed, that this power of taxation that is being taken by the Centre will so whittle down the resource of the Provinces that ere long they will become like district boards and municipalities, waiting micawberf-like on the generosity of the Centre for this particular concession and that particular concession. Well, Sir, who was responsible for all these laws being enacted? Is it not the representatives that you sent from the other House who were willingly responsible, by giving their strength and their vote and by not raising their feeble voice against the drafting of the policies that ought to be followed by the Central Legislature? And now that the Constitution has been passed, is it open for those who were, if I may say so, conniving at these laws to say now that the province has been deprived of its very legitimate method of standing on its own legs? We knew that this was coming; everybody knew that this was coming; but the feeling was so great at that time that none of the representatives of this Province, none of the representatives sent by the Legislative Assembly to the Constituent Assembly, did take any part in raising their voice of protest. On the other hand, my information is that some of the representatives even went to the extent of saying ‘ it is good that the provinces are not given too much power in all these matters ’; and that in more than one instance they actively saw to it that the provision that the provinces might perhaps legislate in certain matters was taken away and that power was given over to the Centre in certain respects. I am afraid, while I sympathize with the Hon. Finance Minister in this particular respect that he has been deprived, not of this particular item alone, but generally of several of the taxes which he might have raised in this Province, if he has not got others to think of, he must thank himself for it.

“ Sir, the Finance Minister has himself stated that the tax in this Province is the highest in India, possibly in the whole world, so far as the motor vehicles tax is concerned. Well, Sir, this is the country where the least number of motor vehicles are now in existence. Compared with the population, compared with the industrial developments of the country, compared with the agricultural resources of the country, and compared with the very poor methods of communication that are at present in existence, no country in the world which lays any claim to a civilized form of life has less of the means of communication as this country

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has got. One of the best methods of promoting communication in the absence of the Government adopting other methods of increasing the means of communication is the poor man's vehicle—the motor vehicle—put within his reach, so that he may exchange and obtain the bare amenities of life.

“ Now, Sir, we talk of rural development and of rural reconstruction; we talk of the methods by which the rural produce has to come to the town and we talk of exchange between the cities and the rural parts. If these methods of communications are not available, if we are still to go on with the old method which I once described in this House and which was a familiar method in my very early child-days, as some of my friends from the Ceded district and the Rayalaseema well know—the stone wheel and a little bit of a wooden platform—if those are the methods of communication that are to be still in existence in some of the rural areas, how is it that you can expect any form of rural development to take place. It seems to me that there are methods of taxation—I know the Hon. Finance Minister is always on the lookout for new methods of taxation (laughter); of course it is natural for him always to see in what manner he will have to tax the people, even if it be taking hold of the sarees of newly wedded couples which he has not so far done—I am sure if he will only study the problem, get expert advice and find out how other countries are increasing their methods of taxation which will not cut at the very root of progress, then he may find those other methods are not applicable here, but only those which cut away the very roots of progress so essential for the public life of the rural population in this province.

“ Sir, I now come to some of the Acts that have been passed by the Legislature. I remarked at an earlier stage that the proximity of the Acts that are being passed and the speed with which they are passed can be compared only to one of those minute-gun-firing performances in the military. Sir, many Acts are being passed; but not always do we realize the implications of those Acts, so far as the finances of the country are concerned. Let me give one example. The Shop Assistants Act was passed in the teeth of opposition in this House. It was made applicable to the whole of the province including the professions of medicine and law. Fortunately, before the Act was promulgated, these professions were excluded, and since then, many a Gazette Extraordinary or Gazette notification has been issued excluding this or that particular line of activity from the Shop Assistants Act. What is the amount that is being spent on this? The establishment costs to the State Rs. 10 lakhs. I ask, would it not have been proper for the Government, if they had to pass an Act like this, without saying that it should apply to the whole of the province, just say that it would apply to the province but only, when the Government notified, to a particular industry or profession that may be concerned. The small beedi merchant is asked by the Shop Assistants Act to give his employee four hours' work; he has a little urchin to help him; he works for four hours and goes out. During the first four hours, no customer comes,

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but during the other four hours, the customer comes, when under the Shop Assistants Act the owner has relieved the assistant from his duties. Sir, trade and commerce have got to be protected and you must necessarily take steps to see that those who are working in the shops are protected; but there is nothing which will affect the resources of the Government to such an extent as their interference with the normal channels of trade and commerce. Sir, I have visited many countries particularly during recent years; the manner in which trade and commerce are facilitated thereby by the Governments of the countries, for the simple reason that unless there is trade and commerce in an ever-increasing measure, the resources of the Government would be affected, is a thing to be copied. It is true that people should not be over-worked; but at the same time, there are industries, there are trades and there are many professions where it is not certainly an offence to be found over-working.

“ Again, I see that the Village Panchayat Bill has been introduced. I did not take part in the discussions except to utter one sentence when I had the opportunity and privilege of presiding from where you are, the next minute the bell was rung and I was thrown out of the Chair in a hurry for obvious reasons. After that, I had no more opportunity to speak and I did not also want to speak in the House, because frankly, the temper of the House was not and the temper of the hon. Member in charge of that Bill was not suitable to a calm and dispassionate consideration of the provisions of that Bill. And as I knew perfectly well that the Bill would be passed without even dotting the i's and crossing the t's and that no change could ever be sought to be made, I thought it was wise on my part not to allow my blood pressure to rise unnecessarily. I am glad that, and let me congratulate him on that, the Finance Member has made no provision for this Bill in the year 1950-51. May it remain like that, a dead letter for many more years.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ The electoral rolls have been prepared.”

12-30
p.m. DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I know the electoral rolls would take a decade or two to be completed. There is no Bill that has been passed in the Legislature which is so pregnant with evil consequences as this, where unfortunately you will get no Panchayatraj but Goondaraj in the shape of adult franchise. I say that without any fear of contradiction and I give it in writing that the Panchayat Bill will be unworkable because both on account of official pressure and pressure from panchayat members, the man who is straight, the man who is honest and the man who wants to follow his avocation without any sort of official restriction will find himself in the jaws of those who know how seriously they can interfere with his liberties. Sir, there is no use indulging in slogans, there is no use saying that adult franchise is good for the country when we know there are serious limitations in regard to it and yet they passed the Bill in a hectic spirit of joy.

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In the Central Legislature today they are bringing forward measures to restrict the conditions under which adults and those who are to be returned to the Legislature must be returned. So, do not come to conclusions. The condition of the country is not so safe. My hon. Friend, the Law Member has not had one night's peaceful sleep for many weeks. Why is it? Is it because that communism is present? Then why not even one Communist member was returned in the recent British elections? Are you sure that you can say that adult franchise will give to the masses a placid, pathetic and contented faith? That is not the case. I say this Panchayat Bill must be put in cold storage for the next five years. It will only work when there are other autonomous bodies with improved methods of working those autonomous bodies. Then, Sir, you find provision made in it that 12½ per cent of the land revenue will go to feed all the staff that will be introduced for your Panchayatraj but only a very meagre sum will go for those people who have to get the benefits of the Panchayatraj.

"Now, Sir, I would, in this connexion refer to the rule making powers that are generally taken by the Governments when presenting these Bills. I find these rule-making powers are so lax that they can straightaway be utilized in any manner without anybody understanding them. One of the latest Gazette Extraordinary notifications of a draft amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules which I found difficult to understand—but I hope in course of time with proper tuition I will understand it—runs thus—

'The following draft of an amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 257, dated the 29th March 1940, at pages 1-40 of the *Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary*, dated the 30th March 1940, as subsequently amended, which it is proposed to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Central Act IV of 1939), is hereby published for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby, as required by section 133 (1) of the said Act.'

No doubt it is such a comprehensive law, but I am unable to understand it and I would ask my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to appear on my behalf to interpret it. But, for ordinary people like me, it is extraordinarily difficult to know what it is. Then it goes on—

'Notice is hereby given that the draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 6th March 1950 and that any objection or suggestion which may be received from any person with respect thereto before that date will be considered by the Government of Madras.'

I have to thank the Government for this mercy. The draft amendment runs as follows :—

'In rule 200 (a) of the said rules, for the words "ten rupees", the words "one hundred rupees" shall be substituted.'

The amendment looks very simple, (An hon. Member : 'One more zero') Yes, only one more zero and mathematicians used to attach no importance to a zero, but here it will. Sir, I may mention as an illustration how the rule-making powers can indeed be used in a manner, though this Legislature may have contemplated in a particular manner, which will certainly affect the vital industries. Even in regard to these rule-making powers, while I really congratulate the Government on the precise manner in which they have given

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the definition, would it not have been a little plainer if a little paragraph is added as to the significance of this? I hope the Secretariat and the Government will realize that the majority of us are ignorant and they will try to teach us what we ought to know.

“ Sir, for a long time we have been talking of Harijan Welfare. I have yet to know what is the policy of the Government in regard to it. Increase in the amenities given today for Education has been certainly one of their main plans for many many years. They are given scholarships; they are given in certain places new hostels free, but the Harijan Welfare is something more than that. What is the policy of the Government in regard to relieving the wretched conditions under which the Harijans live in every locality they have to live, whether it be in the village or whether it be in towns or whether it be a moderate-sized population centre? Have the Government a plan; have they conducted any survey or have they made it available that in each district or in a few districts in the south, a few districts in the north, a few districts in the west and in the centre, certain hamlets are taken or is there any model or have they got really places wherein a little decency of life is given to them? I see in the report that 100,000 house-sites have been provided. But, what are the Harijans to do with those house-sites? You do not need to provide house-sites at all. Now in the city hundreds and thousands of sites have been acquired and everywhere one goes, he can see for instance, near the level-crossings there are houses, on the banks of the Cooum there are houses, though they are not well constructed houses they are thatched huts which have been put up. They are only, if I may say so, tinkering with the problem. I say, we must have a planned method of getting these people to live in circumstances where they can find that they have a reasonable method of protecting themselves from dirt, disease, squalour and where they can have a certain amount of tidiness. So, Sir, unless at least a few model centres are made for the Harijans, how can you inculcate into them healthy habits which you think they ought to have in the interests of the country.

“ Now, Sir, I come to the Judicial department and I congratulate the Hon. Law Member on the introduction of the reform which at one time this party refused to recognize as necessary or desirable. Now, I am glad to say they have implemented it with a great deal of zeal. The separation of the judiciary and the executive is certainly one of the feathers in the cap of the Cabinet and I shall be failing in my duty if I do not recognize it. At the same time I wish to state that a greater responsibility rests with the Hon. Law Member, the Hon. Chief Justice and members of the judiciary to so utilize their power and position as to enhance the prestige of the judiciary in this country. I am forced to make this comment because there are friends here and there—they are fortunately few—who are extra judicial in their pronouncements, which is not consistent with the position of a judge. I would like to say this, it should be the responsibility of the Chief Justice and of the Hon. Law Member to see to it that every profession has got its own limitations and those who talk in judicial courts have a limitation to see that they conduct themselves in public. We have no right

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to criticize their acts, but we have the duty to tell them that they should so conduct themselves in public that there will be a reasonable feeling in the minds of the public, that they will give their undivided attention to matters which come before them and that they should also hold themselves aloof in certain respects so that their judicial pronouncements may not be misrepresented. I do not for a moment suggest that these activities will have a bearing upon judicial matters, but Sir, it is only then that they would do justice to the public.

"Sir, coming to legislation, I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Law Member in particular as I believe he will be responsible to give ultimate advice to his Colleagues in the Cabinet as to the manner in which laws must be made in the future. Time and again when any law was brought forward there was an omnibus clause, which, as I once suggested, might be incorporated and kept type standing so that it might be incorporated in every Act brought before this House. That clause will read in this way—

'No suit, prosecution or other proceeding shall be against any officer or servant of the Government for anything done or purporting to be done under this Act or any rule made thereunder and no decision of the Government, Commissioner or Inspector given under the authority conferred by us under this Act shall be liable to question in any court of law.'

Time and again my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has exhausted himself in protesting against such a provision as this. While he may be interested in it from more than one point of view, I must say I am absolutely disinterested in this matter. I want to invite the attention of the Hon. Law Member to seriously consider the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Article 200."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, is it too late for Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar to pass the B.L. and take up practice in the legal profession?"

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I am not sure about it and I do not want to relieve my friend of it.

"Sir, Article 200 of the Constitution says—

'When a Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State or, in the case of a State having a Legislative Council, has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature of the State, it shall be presented to the Governor and the Governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President:

* * * * *

Provided that the Governor, shall not assent to, but shall reserve for the consideration of the President, any Bill which in the opinion of the Governor would, if it became law, so derogate from the powers of the High Court as to endanger the position which that court is by this Constitution designed to fill.'

Sir, those words are weighty words which one cannot ignore. I would give a friendly warning to the Law Member and his Colleagues that if in future any Bill is presented before either of these Houses, they must take care to see that such Bills are not inclusive of clauses which are likely to come in conflict with any of the articles of the Constitution. I say this because unfortunately the Acts that have been passed by this Legislature and by several of

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the Provincial Legislatures have been passed in a manner that the judiciary have had to make strong strictures about the measures that have been passed. Unfortunately even after those strictures have been made they have introduced amending Bills to legalize what was considered *ultra vires*. So, I give the Government a warning that henceforth there is no possibility of the Government, or the party-in-power, passing any Bill with any degree of satisfaction that they can cover the provisions of the Act and think that the Governor will not have his individual responsibility—not a responsibility on the advice of the Ministers as in the past—but he has his individual responsibility to himself, to the Constitution and to the President to see that he does not give his assent to the Bill.

“ Now, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for Education and to thank him seriously for the effort that he has made in the cause of higher education, secondary education and primary education within the short period he has been in charge of the portfolio. I do not say so with any expectation of any reward from him. For nearly 30 years of the popular Government I have never once gone to the doors of Ministers, either under the Montford Reforms, or under the new Reform and God willing I may be spared of it. I have no personal wishes to fulfil. I can live within my means and look after myself in the manner in which I am destined to live, but when I find for the first time after the formation of the Provincial Ministry, that is, as far back as 1946, certain requests made to them have been considered sympathetically and to the extent possible have been accepted as necessary, I cannot help feeling that a word of thanks is required on my part to fulfil my obligations to the Minister.

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“ Sir, the problem of education is a very grave problem. It is not an administrative problem. My hon. Friend has realized it; but, others, I am afraid, have not always realized it both in this Province and in other provinces. It is not the function of a Government to lay down educational policy in the sense of academic policy. It is the function of the Government to lay down educational policy in the sense of administrative policy. The quantum of education, whether in the primary stage or in secondary stage or in the higher stage, is a matter for responsible experienced educationists to advise. Such policy will be welcome, if it is sound; but it would be an evil day for the country, when such responsibility is to be taken by a Government with a political change, sometimes almost chameleon-like, sometimes with threats of change, it will be an evil day for education to be influenced by such a Government except in regard to administrative policy.

“ Sir, the Hon. Minister for Public Works gave us the other day an exceedingly valuable note on electricity scheme and his idea of nationalization. I then said I wholeheartedly welcomed his idea of nationlization, because I felt that if there is one industry where nationalization would be a proper policy of the Government, it was in regard to the electric resources of the Government; and the result of that scheme, my friend, Mr. Ranga Reddi, has already realized in the town of Proddatur. I am sure others would get the benefit of that soon.

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" While I welcome that, let me also say that he should turn his attention to the works under Civil Works. I make no complaint, and my Hon. Friend himself knows about it, that it is a fact that there is a general feeling that any works undertaken by the Public Works Department, the amounts involved in them is greater than those, if they were undertaken by private or quasi-private concerns. I was astounded the other day when I found an estimate for 16 lakhs for the Arts and Science College, Rajahmundry, to accommodate a thousand students. Let me state to the Hon. Minister that I have got practical experience of the construction of building for bigger colleges of a university which can boast of stronger buildings than any other university in the whole of India. It seems extraordinary that anybody should suggest that 26 lakhs would be required for extension of a building. I have gone into the area of this college. It is 85,000 square feet, and probably the entire area will be 160,000 square feet and can be finished in a highly specialized technical way in an estimate of 17 lakhs, which includes all furniture, electricity, water-supply, gas-supply, steam-supply, wells, electric pump, etc. I ask the Hon. Public Works Minister to examine whether such a large sum is necessary. There may be good reasons. All the same, I would request him to look into the question, call for the estimates, examine the manner these things are put there and satisfy himself whether unnecessary expenditure is involved in this work. I say this, because a number of schemes by the Government are held up on account of want of finance. The Madura Medical College was held up because the estimated cost went up to one crore. The Coimbatore Arthur Hope College of Technology, I regret to say, is in a most unsatisfactory condition. Though it came into being much earlier than the University College of Technology, it has not been properly equipped. The other day, I visited the Voorhee's College. I saw there, it has been provided with the most up-to-date amenities, with automatic water-taps, dinner halls with no fear of contamination from outside, and with a fully furnished chemistry laboratory, the whole thing costing only nine lakhs. I do not say this by way of criticism. I only request the Public Works Minister to see why this huge expenditure is incurred for such a work as Rajahmundry College. I was present in a conference in which the Finance Minister, and I think the Minister for Agriculture also, was present. They were discussing whether a particular work could not be carried out. The officer concerned was saying that it was impossible, and there was no alternative. Why I am saying this is, in my opinion, the word 'impossible' should not be allowed to be uttered by any subordinate of Government to the Members of the Cabinet. If he does so, it is perhaps time he takes rest for some time.

" Then, Sir, I would like to refer, with your permission to the great difficulty that is experienced and the interference that is caused by Government suddenly declaring holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act. It would almost appear as if Government are unmindful of the consideration of other interests in

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declaring a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Perhaps the educational institutions are very grateful to them, as they get an extra holiday. But think of the damage caused to trade and commerce. Bales that are lying in the ship cannot be removed, nor bills can be passed if there are three consecutive holidays. We should not duplicate and triplicate the total number of holidays and declare them all holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act. This country is a free country which henceforth shall not have anything to do with any important stress upon religion. (Interruption.) Yes, we say it is a secular State. No country in the world has as many holidays as this country has had all along. And I thought with the passing of the old regime in August 1948 we would have less of public holidays. But I fear it has increased. I appeal to Government that it is time we take into account the convenience of the people and the public, and see that their normal work is not interfered with. Government may as well increase the number of casual holidays; they may increase it to 25; I do not mind it; but why should there be a holiday for the whole State because of this festival and that, in which people have come gradually to take very little interest, and so, which involves in loss of time only by having to sit at home? Belonging to a profession as I do, which has never taken a holiday even under the Negotiable Instruments Act, perhaps I feel strongly than others. Cut down your holidays ruthlessly; that is the advice I give, and let there be more earnest work by every department of Government, by every machinery that has to work for the good of the country.

" Sir, I now come to a matter of grave concern so far as the evolution of democracy is concerned, and that is my plea for referring to this matter. We have recently again seen in the papers, statements and counter-statements, and resolutions that have been sent up with regard to the alleged malpractices of certain Ministers of the State. I want to make a detailed examination of this question, not because I wish to go into the merits of the case; I have nothing to do with it, for frankly I am not interested in it. But I am interested in it in another way, for I have a right to be interested in it, not only as a Member of the Legislature but as a public citizen, in the manner in which these charges are being discussed, the manner in which they are being debated, and the manner in which they are likely to be disposed of, if they have not already been disposed of. May I in this connexion address myself to the Premier: Let me very briefly refer to the history of the affair. I was away in Europe, in fact, it was while in Rome I read about the charges first. I have been in Europe three times, in every Chancellory, in every Indian Embassy, whether it is in Rome, in Berlin, in Geneva, in London, which all I visited, this was the talk of the Embassy: 'why the charges have been framed; what are the charges against the Ministers; are they new?' Sir, every democracy has known that charges are made by someone or other. Whatever the motive may be, whatever the substance may be of these charges, what

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should have been the procedure; that is what I want to discuss. These charges which are publicly made, instead of being made a matter for Parliament to discuss, for the Legislature to discuss, were treated as if they were a party question. I do not want to go into the details of it. But I want to say categorically that in this respect it was most unfortunate that the Premier allowed himself to be advised in a manner prejudicial to the interest of democratic form of Government. I shall a little later quote from an exceedingly excellent report on this question. The thing was referred to the party, a party which has nothing to do with it; the party members should not have brought it before it. Then an enquiry was made. At the end of the enquiry, Members of the Legislature, who were probably domineering and dominating because of their attitude in this matter were given opportunities to see official files, which they had no right to see and which it was most unfair for officers to have exposed to that sort of scrutiny. I do not see any justification for that. But if there is any justification for it, may I request I may be also permitted to go through them, so that I may write a novel when I retire? Having done that, when the report was unfavourable to the interests concerned, further agitation was started. Charges were framed by the very complainant. Nothing more grotesque can be thought of by anybody with any judicial sense. When the charges were originally made, they were sent to the High Command, and three of the noblest leaders that India can produce in the political world, eminent lawyers themselves, sat down, discussed those things and finally sent their verdict. Immediately the verdict is pronounced, there is again a charge that it should not have been left to these people to decide. Mark you, not one word was said till the verdict was pronounced. Even these charges were made two years back. So long as there was reshuffling of the Ministry in the horizon, nothing was done. It was only after the failure of a particular type of Ministry that these charges were brought to the notice of the party. Having done that, having got the final verdict, the charges are now sought to be brought before the Legislature. I am sorry I have no place in the other House. But from here I can say that it is a very serious insult to the Legislative Assembly to be asked to look into those charges at this stage and no Member of the Legislative Assembly with a sense of dignity of the House should tolerate it. The procedure for making charges is well laid down by the Mother-of-Parliaments. This is not the first time that such charges are made nor will this be the last time, whether in this democracy or in any other democracy. In the peculiar atmosphere of this State, such charges are not likely to be for the last time by any means. May I in this connexion refer to what happened in the House of Commons, which is cited so constantly for the great precedents it has established, when that House was once confronted with a personal charge against a Minister? On January 25, 1945, the hon. Member for Carmarthen (Mr. Moelwyn Hughes) asked the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill) if his attention had been called to the Motion that a Select Committee be appointed to investigate the allegations made

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in this House on 19th December 1944, by the hon. Member for Mossley concerning irregularities in the administration of the Air Ministry'. Allegations must be made in the House and not on public platforms and in very suitable and sympathetic newspapers. It is the House that must be seized of any charge against any Member, be he a Minister or an ordinary Member. 'The Prime Minister replied that he was now able to inform the House that there was no ground for the allegations made against the British Overseas Airway Corporation. He could not therefore advise the House to set up a Select Committee, nor would the Government give any special opportunities for discussion of a Motion to that end.' In other words it means that the Prime Minister has a responsibility to decide the issue which he cannot shove on to other shoulders. How such charges are to be tackled was further clarified when the matter was raised again in the Committee of Supply on the Air Force Estimates just as we in this House could raise a matter in the Budget discussion. 'The Prime Minister then stated that, as Parliamentary usage and custom was an important issue, he felt it his duty to deal with the matter himself. He would reduce it to its simplest terms. The Government advise the House and the House decides. The Government advise the House, whether there should or should not be a Select Committee and the House decides. The idea that there was any automatic procedure or bounden duty to take a particular course was utterly devoid of foundation.' In other words, no Member can go beating about the bush that a Select Committee should be appointed. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to advise the House and it is the duty of the House to decide whether that advice should be accepted or not. The House may even reject the advice; that is another matter."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"If the advice is rejected, the Ministry will decide."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The last three cases of charges against Ministers which were made the subject of debate as to whether there should be a Select Committee or not were the Marconi case in 1912 where the Government proposed a Committee and the House accepted it, without a division, after prolonged agitation and consideration on both sides; the Maurice case in 1918, where the Opposition proposed a Motion for a Select Committee and the House rejected it on the advice of the Government; and the Campbell case in 1924, where the Opposition proposed and the House accepted the Motion for a Select Committee. The Government then resigned. In all these cases the Government took their view, and had the right to take their view, and the Opposition took, and had the right to take, their view, and the House decided what has to happen. Now, however, the party system was in abeyance—it was during the time of War and there was a Coalition Government—and the Noble Lord asked them to lay down a new rule to the effect that when any charge was made by any Member against any

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Minister's honour or integrity, the Government of the day were bound automatically to use their powers to appoint a Select Committee. 'No contention could be more absurd', said Mr. Churchill, who continued—

'It would be most injurious to the House and absolutely contrary to its traditions if such a rule were made. So far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, we refuse to countenance it . . . If this principle were adopted, it would be open in the future for any single Member, however irresponsible, however mischievous, however malignant, to bring any charge, however ill-founded, however worthless, however trivial, against any Minister, and thereupon, automatically, the whole ponderous machinery of a Select Committee would be set in motion.

'I can imagine even that in the days of party strife and faction when feelings run high and a score against the Government is a good thing to bring off, there might be a regular racket among half a dozen Members to bring charges against half a dozen Ministers, or to fling insults against them, and then, automatically, there would be half a dozen Select Committees sitting upstairs, investigating the charges and insults which had been made. Such a procedure would bring the whole principle of Select Committees into contempt, and might tend to rob Parliament of an invaluable weapon in its armoury. The fact is that the Government remains master of its own conduct, and the House itself, the master of the Government, must decide for itself what action to take.'

If I have referred to this subject with some feeling of distress and pain, it is because we do not seem to have imbibed the true principles of the democratic form of Government. I would appeal to the hon. Members opposite, particularly the Members on the Treasury Bench, not to be chicken-hearted but to take courage in both their hands when they feel that their conscience is clear and the verdict is there. The Chief Minister's duty is obvious. This sort of threat to democratic forms of Government will cut at the foundation of democracy and ought to be resisted at all costs. I hope and trust that we shall be laying in this matter at any rate the correct method of democratic approach which will redound to the credit of this State. Already we have suffered in prestige; I had to hide my face and avoid the company of people as quickly as possible whenever this subject was talked about in the Indian Embassies abroad, much to the regret of anyone who has reason to feel that he must take some little pride in his own State.

"I do not wish to keep the House any longer. Perhaps I have traversed grounds which may not be always very familiar in discussing budgets. But my object has been, and will continue to be, that in discussing budgets the figures are not so important as the policies of the Government, the machinery set up to govern and the value placed on that machinery, for on these lie the proper approach to the democratic form of Government and the safety of the future of the public of this State. I appeal to the Treasury Bench and those sitting behind them to see, whatever may be the differences on other issues, that the democratic principle of Government is respected and maintained. There are enough disruptive forces already. The sands of time are running fast. We have got yet much leeway to make. I do hope and pray that in the interests not of this party or that party but of the people as a whole we shall guide the destinies of this State wisely and well."

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* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, our country is passing through critical times. The happenings in East Bengal are causing a lot of anxiety to the people of our country. We have our own difficult problems in the State. The Communists are up to do anything and they are indulging in acts of brutality; especially in villages they are butchering innocent people in cold blood. Our Government are straining their utmost to maintain law and order in the countryside. It is but right that all people, to whatever party they may belong, should give their hearty co-operation to the Government in the maintenance of law and order in these difficult times. The Government are obliged to spend a large sum of money on Police force to maintain peace. To defend our newly-won freedom, it is very necessary that we must maintain discipline and unity in our ranks and put forth the hardest work that we are capable of.

“ The Government are faced with a number of other difficulties also. They have introduced Prohibition throughout the State. People who are addicted to drink cannot easily give up that habit. Illicit distillation is going on especially in the countryside. Though the Prohibition staff is doing its utmost, it is not possible to root out this evil. It is in the Gandhian style that we have to take some steps. The proposal of the Government to appoint Prohibition propagandists at the rate of two for each taluk should be implemented as early as possible. It is only by persuasion, propaganda and similar peaceful methods that we can make the reform successful. People in the villages are indulging in the illicit manufacture of liquor which is of the worst type. The villagers and even the village officers are so afraid of them that they do not give information to the authorities concerned. So, any amount of Police and Prohibition staff will not be able to tackle this problem successfully. If the Congress workers employ peaceful methods and do propaganda, we can achieve substantial improvement.

“ The Congress organization as well as the Government are becoming unpopular on account of controls, procurement and rationing. No doubt our State Government have no voice in the matter. We have to follow the instructions of the Central Government. The Central Government are doing their best to root out the evils resulting from controls by a number of schemes for growing more food. Grow more food is the only solution for eradicating corruption, blackmarketing and similar evils. These evils will disappear only when there is more food. When there is plenty, controls are not necessary. Our State Government also are executing a large number of irrigation schemes to accelerate the Grow More Food Campaign. I hope that, God willing, by the end of 1951 we should be able to turn the corner and abolish all controls as there will be plenty of food in the country. In the meantime it is the duty of the Government to see that the lower officials in charge of procurement, who are the people who are causing a lot of harassment to the people in the countryside, and who bring disrepute to the Government, are punished promptly and severely, if complaints are made against them, so that our

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procurement policy is made a success without causing any hardship to the people in the countryside. Sir, it is highly necessary that we should take every step to improve our countryside and make the lives of people living in the villages as happy and as enjoyable as possible, because most of the people are now-a-days leaving their villages and flocking to the towns, because there are no amenities in the villages. It is therefore up to the Government to provide all amenities and to improve the condition of our villages, even at the cost of the urban areas.

" Sir, the Firka Development scheme which has been in operation during the last four years has been a great success. Now in the villages in which firka development work is going on, there is all-round improvement and all-round progress. You find good roads, you find good water-supply, you find the tanks improved, you find more schools and you find more production of khadi. Now khadi is the greatest gift that Mahatma Gandhi has given to the poorest of the poor in the villages and it is but right that our Congress Government should give every encouragement to the production of khadi, because it is khadi that will solve the cloth problem of the poor people in the villages. It may be argued that we have enough cloth production in the mills and that mill-cloth is cheaper than khadi. But if you really look at the question from the point of view of the villager, it is khadi that is cheaper than mill-cloth for him, because he grows his own cotton and he has his own spinning wheel and further he has enough leisure to make his own yarn and make his own cloth. Sir, our agricultural labourers and their families have no work for about six months in the year and if they engage themselves in the production of khadi, they can easily solve their cloth problem and at the same time supplement their income. It is therefore a boon to the villagers. In the towns and cities, people may not care to spin even for a few hours a day, and therefore they may not understand the value of khadi, but in villages, where people have no work for many months in the year, khadi is a boon to them because it not only solves their cloth problem, but it really gives them their food by supplementing their income and thereby benefiting the entire rural population, and if the rural population is benefited by khadi our country will be benefited.

" Sir, it was complained by many hon. Members that there is no tax relief in the present Budget. No doubt it is true. The Central Government are not giving us any grants and all the things that we want our Government to do, can only be done by raising money from this Province alone and it is only by means of local taxation that the Government can finance all their projects and provide necessary amenities to the people. Of course, it may not be very gratifying, but at least it is a little gratifying to note the Hon. Minister for Finance has not resorted to fresh taxation, although he has not been able to reduce the tax burden on the people. I hope, Sir, that after the next elections, when the next Budget is presented before the new Legislature, there may be some substantial relief from taxation. Already we find that there is some relief afforded to the people in the country by the Central Government. The taxable income of the joint Hindu

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family has been raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 and also the rate of income-tax between incomes of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000 has been lowered. Some people in this Province will also be benefited by these reliefs and we may safely hope, that as time goes on, there will be more and more stability in the country and the Government will be spending less and less on defence and on the Police force and thereby afford more reliefs to the people. At present we have to be satisfied with the existing condition of things and with the existing level of taxation.

" Sir, another important problem that has to be tackled by the Government is how to improve the finances of the local bodies. Our local bodies, at present, with their slender resources are not able to do their duties satisfactorily and provide necessary facilities and amenities to people in the matter of education, sanitation, public health, etc. We see boys of tender age going about begging in the streets and committing acts of thefts and minor offences, because they have no education nor proper training. Naturally when they grow up, they will become a menace to the society and to the State. It is therefore but right and proper that educational facilities should be given to these boys and it is the local bodies that should be entrusted with the task of giving free and compulsory education and also provide free food to those boys who could not get themselves educated otherwise. Small grants must also be given to charitable institutions, because they are also running primary and secondary schools and imparting education to boys and girls. It is the duty of the State to see that these boys do not turn out to be vagrants in their after-years, by providing them adequate educational facilities and by giving them proper training even at their tender age.

" Sir, now coming to my own district, I have got two important points to bring to the kind notice of the Government. Recently the Government have imposed a ban on the movement of jaggery from this Province to places outside. In my district, Anakapalle is a very big jaggery producing area and in the market there are 35,000 maunds of jaggery coming every day. The Central Government seem to have imposed this ban with the object of providing an adequate supply of sugarcane to the sugar factories in that area. Very near to this big jaggery producing area of Anakapalle, there is only one sugar factory which can crush only about 2,500 maunds of sugarcane, and so a large quantity of jaggery is lying in the market and in the godowns of merchants in Anakapalle and unless permission is given to these merchants to export their jaggery to other provinces outside and other places outside, the large stocks with them would get deteriorated resulting in big loss to them. I would therefore request the Government to issue immediate orders withdrawing the ban and at the same time to arrange with the railway authorities to provide necessary wagon facilities so as to enable them to dispose of their large stocks of jaggery as early as possible.

" Sir, the second point is that in my own town of Vizianagram we are now faced with acute scarcity of drinking water. The water-supply system in that town was designed some thirty years ago to supply water for a population of 50,000 at that time. But

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now the population of the town has increased to nearly a lakh and the level of water in the wells and tanks has gone down and pumps are not able to lift sufficient water to provide adequate water-supply to the whole population of the town. The water-supply system is now in a very decadant and defective condition and the Municipal Council has been pressing the Government to grant loans for the improvement of water-supply in that town. But the Government have not yet seen their way to respond to this request and if the present water works fail, the whole population of the town will be put to considerable sufferings. Since water-supply is not adequate, hundreds of people crowd round the public water-taps throughout the day, fighting each other for taking water from the taps, and if even for one day the water-supply fails on account of the defective system, there will be a regular battle among the women-folk, who crowd round the taps, and the public will thereby be put to very great sufferings for want of water-supply. I would therefore request that the application of the municipality for the grant of a loan may be considered favourably by the Government, so that the sufferings of the people in that big town on account of scarcity of water might be mitigated."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to make only a few observations regarding this year's Budget, because this year's Budget really calls for some appreciation instead of mere criticism. This year's Budget gives no room for any criticism, because there are no omissions or commissions on the part of the Government during the year. Neither is there much for condemnation, nor even for any great appreciation. If you examine the Budget from any angle of vision, you will find that it is more or less like the annual financial statements submitted by an accountant, that is to say, it contains merely accounts showing the credit and the debit side of the Government transactions. But one new feature which one cannot fail to notice in this year's Budget is that there is no magician's hand in the matter of juggling with figures, no misappropriation of accounts from one head to another and no attempt to show either a deficit or a surplus Budget by the manipulation of figures. The facts and figures are given very plainly without manipulating them either this way or that way because probably the Hon. Finance Minister wants to be very faithful and very plain in giving his facts and figures, without indulging in high policies of state or of taking upon himself the responsibility of trying to solve the various financial and other problems facing this Province, nor of attempting to compare the finances of this Province with those of others. That is why I have to congratulate the Finance Minister, because he has expressed everything very clearly and in unequivocal terms in his Budget speech."

" Sir, we have the following paragraph on page 38 of his Budget speech :—

"I have now come to the end of my speech. The budget that I have presented contains no surprises, nor does it hold any hope of immediate relief from existing taxation ; but it will be some consolation to many people that the Government do not propose to resort to additional taxation as they were

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compelled to last year. It is no doubt true that the figures I have given regarding the growth of expenditure on the various departments of the Government reflect to some extent the general increase in price levels and that the increase in well-being and prosperity of the people has not been in proportion to the increase in Government expenditure. But no impartial critic will deny that appreciable progress in many directions has been made during the brief period of four years the popular Government have been in charge of the administration . . .

“ These are indeed very plain words, Sir, and the excess of amounts shown either as expenditure on capital account or in the revenue account, on education, public health and so on—all these, he himself admits are due to inflationary conditions in the country and if we actually calculate these figures, we will find that the net effect and the net result of these things will not in any way be greater than what they were in previous years. He himself admits this and for that I must really congratulate him.”

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:—“ The hon. Member may continue his speech in the afternoon.”

The Council then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I quite agree with the Finance Minister when he says ‘ we have still a long way to go before our goal of education for all and a reasonable standard of living for every one is achieved.’ But I hesitate to identify myself with the expression that we have made ‘ appreciable progress’ in many directions. What progress have we made either morally or materially? Permit me to say, Sir (rather I confess) that we have fallen very much from what we were before we became legislators or took up office as Congress men as a whole. We have ourselves got many quarrels among our own party. I say these quarrels have degenerated us from the high pedestal of moral teaching and moral level which our great Father of the Nation and our teacher Mahatma Gandhi taught us for the last 30 years. Are we to-day the same men as we were in 1921, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1940 and 1942 when we faced lathi charges, faced the police firing and went to jails? No; we shall go to the reasons for this later on. What more of moral education have we given from the pedestal of this high office, as Ministers and as legislators, to our countrymen, to our constituencies and to our people who have elected us and who are looking to us for moral uplift? Self-introspection must force us to confess that we have none such to our credit. Whosoever may be the cause for it, and whatever may be the fault, I shall discuss that later on. I now refer to the material progress. Unfortunately, certain figures I came across reveal that material progress in this Presidency is on the retrograde move for the last four years. The figures are given in the publication issued by the Madras Government, prepared by the Economic Adviser to Government, Dr. B. Natarajan. In our Presidency 75 per cent of the population belong to the agriculturist class. We have no large population depending on industrial concerns. Only a little

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less than 10 per cent may be depending upon industries, and the rest are dependent on agriculture. The mainstay of this Presidency is agriculture. What is the position of agriculture in this Presidency now? The prices of the agricultural produce have risen by three to four times more than what they were in 1939-40, and still many times higher than what the prices were in 1931, 1932 and 1933—depression days. For all outside appearance we think and all others think that the position of the agriculturists has improved, and that they are becoming richer and richer by selling paddy at Rs. 20 per bag. Is it a fact that the agriculturist is really benefited by the increase in price? That is the question to-day. To-day we find that agricultural indebtedness is on the increase in this State. The national real income is lessened by 1.41 in 1949-50 as against 1938-39. The per capita real income has been less by 12.57 per cent in 1949-50 as against 1940. Indebtedness in 1947-48 is Rs. 217.8 crores as against Rs. 9 crores in 1945-46. These figures are given on page 98 of the publication entitled 'Health and Wealth' issued by the Government of Madras."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—"The hon. Member will please repeat what he said."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"The indebtedness in 1947-48 is Rs. 218 crores as against Rs. 9 crores in 1945-46. These are all loans given by the co-operative societies to the people. People take loans from the co-operative societies or land mortgage banks only when they are in need of money. The amount of Rs. 217.8 crores taken by the people as loans shows how far they are indebted. What for have the ryots contracted so many loans and so much amount? Is it for the purchase of more lands or foodgrains? Latest annual report on co-operation has given statistics for this also. The statistics show that up to 10 per cent of the loans was utilized for the purchase of foodstuffs."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—"Hitherto the ryots were taking money from the money-lenders. Now they are taking loans from the co-operative societies."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"Sir, if an enquiry is ordered, we will find that money-lenders also are giving loans to the ryots. In fact they are giving more than what they gave before, and that too at a higher rate of interest. As a matter of fact, I came into contact with three or four big money-lenders—some of my friends whom the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi also knows. They are giving loans to the ryots as before, and their accounts show a greater figure than it was in 1930-31 or 1938-39. As far as my enquiries go, the rate of interest is one rupee per month per hundred. It is not four annas bank interest or eight annas mortgage interest. At very high interest, people are borrowing money. I do not at present take these loans into consideration. If I do, agricultural indebtedness will become still greater than the figure shown by the co-operative societies and land mortgage banks."

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“ I now come to the economic situation. We have been saying till now that every bad thing was due to the legacy of the British administration and the effect of the world-war. How far it is so, we have to examine. The world-war of course affected the economic condition of the whole world. But why did it affect our country, where the war was not actually fought, more than it did other countries? We find that the wholesale prices in India are greater than those in other countries. The wholesale prices in India now are three times more than what they were in the year 1940. In the United Kingdom they were 137 in 1940 whereas they are now 229. In America the figures were 79 as against 153 now. In Canada they were 88 as against 156 now. In Australia they were 110 as against 189. Therefore, why, is it that in India alone the figures of wholesale prices have gone up more than three times? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ What is your reason? ”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ I shall tell you as much as I can. But you are a big Government having Economic Adviser. You ought to have examined the causes and the solutions and in this matter you must have consulted the Economic Adviser. That is exactly why I put this question to our Finance Minister and the other Ministers.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ The hon. Member is an economic expert himself.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ I shall try as much as I can do to tell you at the end all the causes and the remedies.

“ Sir, if we look at the cost of living index of the working class as a whole, we find that in India it was 100 in 1939, 350 in 1948 and 387 in September 1949. So, the cost of living of the working class has also gone up more than three times. The wholesale prices have also gone up. The *per capita* income has gone down. Regarding indebtedness, from the loan amounts given by the banks, we find that the agriculturists have taken more loans than previously. Is this the progress in our Presidency for the last four years? Has the Government viewed the matter in a comprehensive manner? If progress means the number of Bills that we have passed and the clauses and sub-clauses contained in those Bills, certainly I quite agree that we have passed many Bills and we in this House have been obeying you and passing many Bills in a few minutes' time in whatever manner you wanted them to be passed. But legislation of this nature cannot solve our economic problems. We have to face squarely the problem to find out its causes and solutions. What is going on in the world to-day? We find in the whole world to-day the fight is between haves and havenots, whether it be individuals or societies, i.e., individually or collectively or on a nation-wide basis. To-day the whole fight is between America and Russia, between capitalism and communism. The other countries are also involved in this. That is the whole cause of the trouble, the main economic trouble, in the whole world to

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which India is also subjected. Can any number of Bills or legislation put down or kill the spreading of ideas? Did we, the Congress, not thrive even under the repressive policy of the British Government? That repressive policy was our strength, in fact, it was not due to our inherent strength for we knew what we were. I still say it was not our inherent strength that brought us this freedom or independence. It is due to his weakness, repressive policy and his own immoral conduct that the Britishers had to quit India to-day. As you all know, I am dead against communist doctrines and I have my own opinions on their economic doctrines. As regards their doctrines of Godlessness, violence and so on and so forth, I am dead against them. I can never be a supporter or sympathizer of these doctrines. But all the same, I am not going to say anything from the standpoint of our enemy. It is not the enemy's policies or conduct that should influence us. (At this stage Sri N. Ranga Reddi occupied the Chair.) It is our own sayings, assumptions and presumptions and claims and counter-claims that should clearly guide us in the formulation of our policies. We were dead against the repressive policy, lathi charge, and detentions without trial. To-day you are yourselves adopting these things, under our very nose. Please do not misunderstand me when I say all these things. I know that the Government could not do anything else than this. They can thrive only on lawful violence. Sir, I would like to remind myself and my friends also that whenever any shooting took place during the British regime, they said it was due to throwing of brick-bats or stones. Throwing of a stone was not a crime deserving shooting according to our conception then. I know this when I was the Secretary of the Simon Boycott Committee of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee in 1940. I was asked to go to Madras to carry on boycott here. Then we know what happened. When perhaps some of our friends on the Ministerial Bench except one or two were not born as politicians. Lala Lajpat Rai on account of the lathi charge against him by the Punjab police carried on boycott campaign against the British"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"How is all this relevant to the Budget speech?"

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"I am coming to our own Budget, Sir. There is heavy expenditure. While speaking on this issue, I have to refer to all these. The repressive policy comes in appropriately."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"If the hon. Member is criticizing the Budget, please give him as much time as possible, Sir."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"I am not criticizing the Budget, at any rate as you are. I am making constructive criticisms. I criticize because I want to give vent to my feelings and I belong to a party which now rules the whole country, and which stands for high principles. All that I want is that my party people should stick to the principles laid down by our

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Master, Mahatma Gandhi, and should think only of the welfare of the people. But Dr. John pitches upon one particular point which I refer to and comes to conclusions. In that way he wants to enjoy. I hope that I would not give him room to enjoy at my expense.

“Taking into consideration our present economic condition, there is no use of our resorting to repressive laws to put down an economic theory. We must also invent our own means of approaching the economic problem and find a solution. Only with this view, I spoke of the uselessness of the repressive policy, and not because the Government have done something which ought not to be done. I quite see that the Government cannot but do these things because no Government can allow dacoities, murders and lawlessness to go on in the country. But it is not the solution of the economic problem. You cannot suppress ideas by putting in jails or using bayonets or tear-gas. Now, whenever a Communist finds an agriculturist, he assures him of equal distribution of land and catches hold of him. The man who has got less holding is told that he will have as much as any other landowner who is having hundreds of acres of land. He is told, ‘When communism comes, you can share equally with all the people.’ That is the cause of the sympathy the Communists are getting in the country. Coming to industrial labourer, the Communist tells him ‘Why should you labour and give the profits to others? If the Communist Government is established, you will get all the profits yourself. There will be equal distribution of profits which you do not have to-day.’ Thus the industrial labour is enticed.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“Is the hon. Member in favour of the Communist policy?”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I am dead against it. We have set the ball rolling for confiscation of properties directly or indirectly. In this Presidency let us examine the laws that we have passed. We are not helping the Communists. We want to establish a lawful Government, a Government of a co-operative commonwealth. Sir, the Congress felt it proper to abolish the zamindaris. To-day the capitalists are running the industrial concerns. We are passing laws so that the labour may not work more but may enjoy more holidays and may be given more bonus. (Dr. V. K. John : ‘Nationalization.’) I will come to that afterwards. As far as the agriculturist is concerned, he has not much of the land. We told him that a fresh law fixing the agricultural holdings would be coming up under which about 50 acres of land or so will be fixed for a holding in ryotwari areas, and yet we have not done it. What is the result? The big landlords ceased to have interest in their own lands for intensive and extensive cultivation.

3 p.m. “Regarding the educated middle class man, he is moving about from day to day, from man to man, from street to street, for a job and he gets nothing. About the homeless and foodless people

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thousands of them are roaming about in the streets of the Presidency. What have you done for them? Then there is the housing problem. The building of a few houses here and a few houses there will not do. Do you mean to say that you can solve this housing problem by that? No, you cannot. What about the innocent poor man who has no food to eat and no place to live in? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I wish the Minister for Housing was here to listen to the speech of the hon. Member."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Thank you very much for the suggestion. So we have not yet rendered to these unfortunate poor people the help that they need. That is why they are now feeling against us. Agricultural labour is not satisfied, industrial labour is not satisfied. What have you done to satisfy them? The agriculturist himself is not quite well. The middle class people are not satisfied as they have no job. Whom are we satisfying to-day? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Can God satisfy everybody? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I say that God can satisfy everybody and anybody, if we have faith in him. As we should have faith in God so that he may satisfy anybody and everybody, so also if we have faith in ourselves and if we have faith in our own programmes and if we adhere to them strictly as wise men do without any vacillation and carry on things with one voice and close up our ranks and be fully aware of our own limitations, then we can certainly satisfy at least a section of the people and can with confidence approach the electorate in the next general elections. But we find that everybody is dissatisfied. At every nook and corner, you can find dissatisfaction only, in every class of people. I may tell my friends that I am one with them. I have nothing personal and have no axe to grind. I am saying these words not because I want to say something against them. Certainly not. I say this with the utmost sincerity at my command. We have to employ self-introspection and have a clear-cut economic programme to move against the Communists.

" In my view, before we approach the electorate, what we must do is, we must first of all do away with the controls. I would like to remind you the fate of the Labour Party in England that stood so ardently for controls. In all other countries also, the same will be the case. In India, we will fare worse, because the fundamental principles on which controls are to be administered in other countries differ very much from the ones to be taken note of in this country. In India, controls are absolutely unworkable. In England they may be workable to some extent. If control is necessary, we must understand it. In England, they had to import foodstuffs. There ought to be governmental machinery to see that the food supplies so imported are equitably distributed among the population. That is why in England, controls worked successfully to some extent during the war-time. As regards our country, it is a producing country. So in this country,

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the more you introduce these controls, the more the stocks go underground. These stocks would not come at all and they would not see the light of the day at all. Where is the stock for you here for equitable distribution under control system? The stocks are going underground, and that is why your controls have failed. Then there is the restriction against inter-district, inter-taluk, inter-provincial movement of stocks. These are more beneficial to those producers and businessmen to see that the stocks go underground. So, our controls have miserably failed."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, may I bring to the notice of the Chair that there are only four Ministers listening to the speech of the hon. Member. I wish all the Ministers to be present in the Council to hear the hon. Member."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I submit, Sir, that there is no case at all for the introduction of these controls in any manner whatsoever. Allow free trade to develop. Let some time be given to free trade also. Then everything will settle down themselves, the prices will settle down themselves. In spite of the apprehensions expressed by certain interested people that the people will become foodless and all that, I should say that the prices will adjust themselves and the people will also begin to adjust themselves. So, take away the controls and restrictions. Let the stocks that are now underground come out. As far as the Government is concerned, we will save much money. As Dr. Rajan has once said, if the Government remove the controls, not only it will save much worry for the Government but much money will also be saved for the Government. Have we forgotten the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi? While he was alive, he pressed upon us to discontinue these controls. We obeyed. We accepted his advice. But the moment he died, we thought it advisable to reintroduce the controls. We thought ourselves to be too prudent to accept his advice. I am afraid, Sir, that we have allowed his teachings to be devastated along with his ashes that were immersed all over India. I am strongly of the view that had we followed his wise counsel, by this time, the prices would have adjusted themselves and normal walk of life would have been established by now. At any rate, the Government would have been free from the criticism of the public, who are now throwing the responsibility for all their miseries upon the Government. I know that this is not correct. At any rate, no other party Government in this Presidency would do well. On that score I can challenge any other party. But all that I say is, we are unnecessarily facing public criticism by continuing these controls. So, the first thing that we have to do to enhance the prestige of the Congress and the first thing that we have to do to enable us to approach the electorate with confidence, is to remove these controls. I know that this matter is not entirely in the hands of this Government. I know that they have to approach the Central Government. So, do approach the Central Government and say, 'This is a wrong policy.' The advice tendered by the Centre to continue these controls is harmful and suicidal to the great organization itself and

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that we cannot face the electorate with these controls and if we persisted in our foolhardiness, then certainly we have to face the situation which the Labour Party in England had to do.

“ Next, to meet the Communist menace, we have to bring down the prices. We cannot allow this menace to continue. From 1940, with less income and more indebtedness and high prices, who do you think are living in comfort? Is the Government servant living in comfort? No, he is dissatisfied. About the agriculturists in the Presidency, 80 per cent of the landholders are only small landholders. Seventy-five per cent of the agriculturists have got about 5 acres only. Only a small percentage of indebtedness was created for the purchase of land. The small agriculturist has to purchase agricultural implements, food for his livestock and besides this, he has to earn for his livelihood. So, on the whole, about 75 per cent or so of the indebtedness was attributed to all these things. What have we done to bring down the prices? Controls should be removed. I have been repeatedly urging on the floor of this House that the prices of certain things have to be brought down. I have also brought forward certain propositions. I know that it is not in the hands of the Provincial Government only. The Provincial Government, with its limitations, with its limited autonomy under the new Constitution cannot do anything by itself. It has to address the Centre. A big Government like ours should not sit quietly. It should address the Centre to adopt all possible means to bring down the high prices. That alone can save you. Even if you increase the price by five rupees per bag of paddy that will not give the relief to the agriculturist. Even if you make the cost of the bag as Rs. 30, that will not give the relief to the agricultural labour. Even if you make the wages of the industrial labour twice or even thrice than what they were previously getting, it will not give the relief that is necessary. All these cannot bring the relief that is wanted by the common man. If the Government bring down the prices, then that would be the real and practical relief to the common man. He will then say that ‘ the Congress Government has brought down the prices, the Congress Government have removed all controls. I am now able to command the articles I want at cheaper prices.’ Along with it, the high wages that they are now paid will also come down. Then normal standard of living will be established. The prices will come down. The cost of living will come down. Such a normal course will be established and we will be able to meet the Communists successfully at the next general elections. If we do all these, we will be able to command the sympathy and co-operation of all classes of people in this Presidency against the atrocities of the Communists. I want to impress upon the Members that we are unnecessarily carrying on the burden. It has been our unfortunate lot to do the same thing as the Britisher did against us. The Provincial or now the State Government should make proposals to the Central Government in this regard and the Centre, if they are serious and if they are not pro-capitalistic, should accept those proposals so that inflation may be minimised and the currency contracted, and the hidden money brought out. For instance, I put forward before our Hon. Finance Minister a proposal with

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the request that he should carry it out if it was good. The proposal was that the Government should declare the currency issued in the year 1940 as illegal tender and prescribe a date by which those in possession of that money may be required to declare the amount they possess, when that amount should be replaced by issuing new currency. It is clear I do not mean that those in possession of the old currency should be deprived of their possession as such. All that I wanted to point out is that this will help the Government a good deal in withdrawing the large circulation that is taking place now resulting in inflation. I also suggest that a certain minimum should be fixed—say, 5,000 or 10,000 or 15,000—up to which no tax should be levied and only higher sums should be taxed. This will also help the Government to have more money. The war ended in 1945. Let the Government of India even now—it is not too late—fix a date, say six months or one year from the close of the war, and declare that the currency in circulation prior to that date is illegal tender. Then the Government of India will get huge sums of money through this source helping at the same time the lowering of the price levels. Then inflation can be reduced and when it is reduced and the contraction of currency takes place, certainly the prices will come down automatically. When this happens, naturally the cost of living will also come down. Then the Government can easily remove controls without any fear of people not getting food and other necessities of life. And we can see normal conditions prevailing once again. It is only when the situation gets back to the normal that we can face the electorate confidently once more. It is only then that we will be able to fight the Communist menace successfully and the poorer classes, the labouring classes and the middle classes will be our own men as they were at the last election."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, may I know, whether it is proper to discuss Currency in this House? Will it not be more appropriate if this subject is discussed in the Central Legislature? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I am speaking on the Budget. If the hon. Member will be patient for a while, he will come to know how it is relevant. The economic condition of our people is very bad. The incidence of taxation in the Madras Presidency has increased year after year up till now. Hon. Members—I mean the Opposition also—will find that there is no relief from taxation. But, how can we blame the Hon. the Finance Minister—Mr. Gopala Reddi—for that? You place any other person in his place and I am sure he will not be able to give any relief from taxation, circumstances being what they are to-day . . . "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are you supporting the Government now? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do not look at things from the point of view of opposition or support (laughter). I am

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looking at the whole matter from the view point of a constructive critic. I know that no other Government than the Congress can do better or has done better. My point, however, is it has not done all that it has promised. (Interruption from the Treasury Benches.) What I want to emphasize here is that if the Madras Government prevails upon the Central Government to accept the suggestions I have made, I am sure positive relief to the taxpayer, to the consumer, will result. Therefore, there is no use of criticising the State Government or accusing them of absolute failure"

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I enquire, Sir, whether the hon. Member can be inconsistent in his speech—criticizing them at one time and supporting them at another? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Consistency does not mean that one should not criticise the Government. I am here to say something definite to the Government and at the same time I want to tell the House that in a State like this, as it is now constituted and in the present circumstances, no relief from taxation is possible (Interruption.) There is a suggestion made by certain people that expenditure should be reduced. How can Government expenditure be reduced so long as there is inflation in the country? The Government servants, I know, are only half-fed and most of them—those below the rank of Gazetted officers—find it impossible to maintain themselves and their families. The Government servants—no sympathy for the Government. But, I must point out, that is none of our fault or their fault either. It is the miserable position in which we are now placed that is responsible for this attitude of theirs. Therefore, I would once again request the Hon. the Finance Minister to insist on the Central Government at every stage possible to remove controls as advised by our Great Master in the interests of the people.

" Sir, my next point is irrigation about which I want to say one thing. In the Godavari district"

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Why not send for the Hon. the Minister for Public Works now? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" That is for the Treasury Bench to do. In the Godavari deltaic areas, there is what is called the permanent second-crop zone; besides, there are also the rotation second-crop zone and the additional second-crop zone. This division into three zones exists in the West Godavari district and the same position obtains more or less in the East Godavari district also. The rotation scheme was introduced about 20 years back in West Godavari. I may tell my Hon. Friend, the Minister for Public Works, that the existence of the additional zone breeds corruption and the subordinate officers of the Public Works Department reap a good harvest here by way of bribes. The Public Works Department is the worst so far as corruption is concerned. Unless, therefore, this additional second-crop zone is abolished, corruption cannot be wiped out. I am speaking about

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West Godavari only and I do not know anything about East Godavari in this regard. As far as my constituency is concerned, I can say unequivocally and without fear of contradiction”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Without fear of contradiction even from Ministers? ” (Laughter.)

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Yes, even from the concerned Minister. I may suggest that the additional land which is about 35,000 acres in extent, may be converted into one of regular rotation zone, even though that may involve some additional cost for the Government.

“ Next, Sir, I come to the rural electrification scheme for the West Godavari district. I have been urging upon the Government for the last four years on the floor of this House to expedite the completion of this scheme. But the Government have been saying that it would be done ‘ this year ’ and this ‘ this year ’ is one that is perpetually there on the wall (laughter). I do not know whether it would be done at least this year. As far as the Hon. the Finance Minister is concerned he has been kind enough to allot lakhs of rupees for this purpose for the last few years and I do not understand how it has all evaporated. In this connexion, I may tell the House that there is a move to take away the pillars that are lying in our place for construction work for use elsewhere”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Are they wooden poles? ”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ I know they are not wooden pillars. They are metallic poles. I was told by some body that there is a move to divert those poles to some other place. I want to know whether the Government have ordered any such removal and if so whether it indicates that the work will not be taken up even this year”

JANAB K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM :—“ Sir, can there be any reference to ‘ some body ’ in the matter? ”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ When I take the responsibility for the correctness or otherwise of the statement, I am entitled to refer to anybody. . . .”

JANAB K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM :—“ But there is a ruling, Sir, given in the British Parliament that even newspapers should not be referred to.”

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—“ Not in this House.”

3-30
p.m.

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Then I would like to say a few words about the Health Department when the Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty was in charge of that department. For giving good medical aid to the people there are two factors, one is the Doctor and the second is his Compounder. Of the two, the Compounder is the main factor. The Doctor gives the prescription and it is the Compounder who has to compound correctly and give us the medicine. So the Compounder must be a man who is fully satisfied

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with his personal wants. In May 1949 the Compounders working in Government Hospitals and in Local Boards met in a conference at Madras under the presidentship of Dr. Narayanamurthy. That conference was opened by our Chief Minister, Sri Kumaraswami Raja. The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty was also present. The demand of these poor Compounders was for the grant of a few rupees in their salaries. The Surgeon-General, it seems, was kind enough to recommend their case to the Government and requested the Government to concede what they wanted. In his letter No. 80336/47, dated 9th October 1947, the date of the reference must be remembered by the Chief Minister, the Surgeon-General recommended to the Government of Madras to fix the scale of pay of Compounders at 50-3-95 with ten per cent of the appointments as selection posts carrying a pay of Rs. 110. The Government were pleased to observe in their Memorandum No. 81689/47, P.H., dated 12th November 1947 that they generally agreed with the Surgeon-General's remarks and the question of the revision of pay was under the consideration of the Government. The existing scales of pay are 35-1-50 for local board servants and 35-1-60 for Government servants. The difference in scales should be done away with. As the Government thought it fit to consider what the Compounders wanted and recommended by the Surgeon-General, and as the Chief Minister sympathised with their demand quoted in the reference referred to above, I request the present Health Minister, who is a Doctor himself, and who can realise the importance of Compounders, to take up the matter and do his best forthwith and without any further delay. The Surgeon-General made his recommendation in October 1947 but up till now nothing has been done. Where is this file? Is the file sleeping in the hands of Dr. Rajan? I know no file will be sleeping with Dr. Rajan."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Is the hon. Member suggesting that the files are sleeping or the Hon. Dr. Rajan himself is sleeping or both?"

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"I am convinced that the Hon. Dr. Rajan is not sleeping. I have confidence in him. He is a nice Doctor and has sharp knives. That is why I ask him to get hold of the file, sleeping somewhere in the Secretariat, and look into the case of these poor Compounders and remove their discontent. Any tinkering with his condition means the patients life. Instead of saving the patient, instead of giving proper medical assistance, we would force the Compounders to kill the patients. We must make them feel contented. After all what they wanted is nothing. It may cost a few lakhs of rupees to the Government. Also I would like that the difference in scales of pay between the two sets of Compounders, Government Compounders and Local Board Compounders must be abolished as soon as possible. After all I am not able to understand why this difference should exist.

"Then the question I would like to refer is the unfortunate question of the Andhra Province. I thought, Sir, this year I would be in a position to address the Andhra Legislative Council in my sweetest possible Telugu. I am very much disappointed,

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Sir (Interruption) and the hopes of three crores of Andhras were raised very high over their getting their Province by 26th January. It has not come. On the other hand some of our learned friends, men with status, thought that the question was buried alive and it needs the help of eminent men like Dr. Rajan to perform its last rites."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I never said buried alive."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Why should I perform any last rites for somebody else? " (Laughter.)

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I must tell these Friends that it is not such an easy thing to be spoken of and in such a light vein. This hurt the feelings of three crores of Andhras. I must frankly tell you, I am not a faddist, I always think in terms of a citizen of the Indian Union. The other day the Leader of the Opposition asked whether the question of Andhra Province was buried alive."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I never said that the Andhra Province was buried alive. I only enquired whether it was dead and buried. That was only an enquiry. I now ask whether there is any one among the Andhra Ministers who wants the Andhra Province? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" That does not matter. Andhra does not constitute the Andhra Ministers or the Legislature alone. It means the whole of Andhradesa with 3 crores of people who are fighting for it for the last thirty years. That question is not based on parochial feeling, that question is not based on self-interest."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is it in order Mr. Chairman, for a Member to pull up his sleeves and challenge like this. I would request the Chairman to ask the Member to keep his fist away from . . . "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I am too old and weak to beat you. I had an abscess on the right arm which had to be operated upon. Consequently I am not able to raise the hand and therefore I am pulling up the sleeves. When we speak let us try to avoid as much as possible to hurt the feelings of any individual, and more especially on a question like this. The Madras Government earnestly tried to form the Andhra Province by 26th January 1950. But somehow it was not realized. It does not mean that it will never be realized. It does not mean that it was buried alive. It could never be buried alive as long as three crores of Andhras live on the face of this continent. I say, Sir, if any question is based on parochial or selfish interest that is sure to die as some things are sure to die. But the question of the Andhra Province is based on the linguistic redistribution of India. It is a question based on administrative convenience. How long are we, Sir, to sit in this legislature and speak in a language, in a foreign tongue without being understood by our own men. If I speak in my mother tongue, Telugu, some of you do not understand. Some again may not understand Tamil. If the Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon talks in Malayalam many may not

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understand. How long are we to go on in this way, Sir. (Interruption : ' Better learn Hindi '.) It is for this administrative convenience that the redistribution of Provinces on linguistic basis is wanted, and also for the well being of the people to carry on the administration of the Province in their mother tongue so that the man in the street, every citizen living in the state might identify himself with the administration. It is on this basis that the Andhra Province was wanted. I am one of those who think that this can be done with mutual good will. We can part with each other as brothers. On this big issue there are bound to be certain differences. Is it because there is difference, or something somewhere, is it fair to put an end to or postpone the formation of the Province? " (At this stage the Deputy Chairman took the Chair.)

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Shelving of the Andhra Province is due to the disunity among Andhras and difference of opinion. I want to know, Mr. Chairman, whether it is in order for the hon. Member to criticise the Leader of the Opposition on the attitude of these linguistic Provinces when we are on the Budget discussion? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I tell my hon. Friend that I am quite in order, because I expected that the Budget would be split up into two, one for the Andhra and the other for the Tamil Nad and since this was not done, it was a great disappointment to me. I find there is no Andhra budget. Since that matter is still pending with the Madras Government and certain references are to be sent to the Central Government, I am perfectly in order, perfectly legitimate and absolutely right in referring to it. That is my submission."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" The hon. Member has taken a very long time. You can now finish your speech."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I was under the impression that I have been allowed to speak for 2½ hours. That is why I was going on. If the Deputy Chairman wants that I should finish, I will finish it in a little time."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" There are four more to speak after you."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I was told that I was the only one to speak this afternoon . . ."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" If the hon. Gentleman was in the Andhra assembly none else would have spoken."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I want that the Madras Government should continue its earnest efforts as it did before with regard to the formation of the Province. These differences cannot be settled here. We should realize that the differences exist between provinces and provinces, and there are three provinces involved in this issue namely, the Andhra, Tamil and Kannada. (Interruption : ' We have no Provinces now; we have only States '.) The right course is for the Central Government to

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arbitrate in the matter. I would therefore request the Government of Madras to earnestly try for the appointment of an Arbitrator to settle the question.

“ One more thing about the deficiency of personnel (Andhra personnel) in the services. The Madras Government found that there were not sufficient Andhras to manage the Andhra state. Now the Madras Government have time enough. I request the Government would find some way to see that such deficiency in personnel did not exist and see that the elder brother hands over the State with good services to the younger brother. I know there will be many difficulties.”

3-45 DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ May I know who is the younger brother
p.m. and who is the elder brother? ”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ The residuary province will be the elder brother. For all our purposes it is still our elder brother. But I want that people should not go about issuing this statement and that statement—all ill-considered statements—with a view to get the sympathies of their own people. Sir, you can bifurcate a piece of land, but you cannot bifurcate South Indian culture. The culture of South India, of the land south of the Vindhyas is one. How can you divide Ramanuja who is claimed as a guru by the Andhras and the Tamils? How can you bifurcate Sankara who is claimed by people of Malabar and the Tamils and Telugus also. How can you divide Madhwa? These three great teachers have given to us three great systems of philosophy. We are all bound by one philosophy or the other. Some Tamil friends claim that Srirangam and Tirupalani and Cape Camorin are their property. I dare say that they are not their properties. They are the property of the whole of India. Srirangam cannot belong to Dr. Rajan alone. It is as good as my property. It is the property of thousands of people. Likewise, can we say that nobody from Tamil Nad or North India can come and take a plunge in the holy waters of the Godavari and the Krishna? Certainly not. Indian culture, Indian philosophy and Indian citizenship are all interwoven together by our holy religions, holy temples and so on. Geographical bifurcation of the land is intended only for administrative convenience. It does not mean that there will thereafter be disagreement, disunity and non-co-operation between the different States. There need not be any such misapprehension, that if the State is divided into linguistic units, there will be no co-operation between the states. It is all superficial, imaginary and wishful thinking. Therefore, the Government should do their best to continue their efforts and induce the Union Government to appoint an arbitration and boundary commission as early as possible.

“ Lastly, I want to make a few remarks about political sufferers. Much has been said about the giving of lands to these political sufferers? Sir, who are these political sufferers? They were the fighters for the independence of our country. It is only due to their suffering that we are all here to-day. We became

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legislators and then Ministers and we are running the state Governments. It is because there are so many known and unknown political sufferers outside this House. It is on account of their long sufferings and great sacrifices that we were able to get the confidence of the people. What we are having now is the consolidation of the sacrifices made by thousands of unknown people. Now, after winning the country's freedom, can we forget these fighters for freedom who faced lathi charges and bayonet charges in the freedom fight after leaving their families and avocations? To-day, it is proposed to give five acres of wet land or ten acres of dry land to them. If it is said, that it is too much, that it is a party question, that it is nepotism and so on, such a criticism is indeed unfair. I think we must encourage the Government to do the needful. My quarrel with the Government is that they are not doing all that is necessary. For instance, they repaid the fines imposed in 1942. I asked them to repay all the fines imposed on political workers in 1920, 1930, 1932 and 1940. I have been in the field since 1917. It is now 33 years. I know through what phases the political movement has gone through. I know the sufferings of the people in 1921. When we entered the jails in Rajahmundry in 1921, the warders abused us to our face. The warders were new to receiving educated men as prisoners. But we have now got A, B and C classes. Many of us could now get into the jails. Why should we forget the political sufferers of 1920, 1930, 1932 and 1940? Why have not the Government repaid the fines paid by them? I would like to remind them about what the Punjab Government have done. The grandsons of the people who suffered in the Komagata Maru agitation, even though it was not a non-violent agitation, have been paid compensation. I only want the Government to repay the fines paid by these people. It is not a payment from the coffers of the Government. It is only repayment of the money paid by these political sufferers. The property taken away from them during those years should also be restored to them. Many here do not know the sufferings in those days. Except one or two people sitting on the treasury benches, the others do not know the real sufferings of the people in the early days. My humble submission is that the Government have got the accounts in their possession. In the History of the Congress written by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, it has been recorded that in 1940 the fines collected in Tamilnad amounted to twenty-nine thousand rupees while the fines collected in Andhradesa amounted seventy-six thousand five hundred. It is not much. In 1930, the Government wanted to frighten the people by imposing heavy fines. Now that we have a Congress Government and the treasury is in our hands, why not we repay the amounts collected from our own co-workers and colleagues and political sufferers? It is a repayment of only what they have paid."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" It is all in the reserve fund, carrying interest."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" No amount will come to me. I was never fined except Rs. 10. I have no personal axe to grind in the matter. I am pleading only for people who have

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been suffering for 30 years, after losing their properties and leaving their wives and children in the lurch. (Interruption.) Yes, my press was of course confiscated in 1932. A press worth Rs. 20,000 was sold away for Rs. 100. But I do not want to speak upon that, because it is a personal affair.

“ Sir, about the granting of these lands, a Government order was issued by the Government. I am now going to show that under this Government order no political sufferer will get any land worth the name. The first part of the Government order says that land occupied by unauthorized people, if they happen to be poor, should be given to them. Sir, certain lands were occupied by some people without notice to the Government and without the sanction of the Government. Year after year, the Government inflicted penalties on them and issued eviction notices. But those people who occupied the Government lands in that way are now made the legal occupants. These people who occupied the lands before April 1948 should be kept on the land if they are poor. All the best land has been occupied by such unauthorized people and even eviction notices have been served on them. They have had no effect. Meanwhile, the Government order came and title has been conferred on them by the Government order. There is now no other land available.

“ I will now give one instance. One political sufferer was given a land of five acres in three villages—two plots in one village, two plots in another village and three plots in a third village, each plot a mile distant from the other and distributed in all the corners—north, east, west and south. Because, there is no other land available. I will tell you something more for your amusement. One piece of land is about 3 or 4 chains long while it is one or two yards broad. How can it be ploughed and brought under cultivation? This is a piece of land cut off from the original plot as an encroachment by the karnam. One plot of land is about 2 acres. It is five yards higher in level than the adjoining land. It is classified as wet. That political sufferer has to pay a tax to the Government. It is absolutely of no use to him. If he has to bring it under cultivation, it will cost at least Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000. The adjoining lands cost Rs. 2,000 an acre.

“ That being the case, Sir, unless the Government order is modified to the effect that political sufferers must be given preference and that unauthorized occupants, to whatever caste they may belong, must be evicted if it is unauthorized occupation we will not be able to satisfy even a few political sufferers. The Government should therefore be good enough to reconsider this Government order and have it modified suitably.

“ Further, Sir, it was stated that applications for the grant of these lands should be sent in before a certain date. It was also said that the grant of lands should be completed before a certain date. Now it has not been completed. The special staff also is being continued. Therefore why not the date for sending in applications also be extended? For, certain people who had no

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mind to apply for these lands before may be induced to apply for them now. I want the date for sending the application should also be extended. With these few words, Sir, I want to thank the Hon. the Finance Minister"

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Is it correct, Sir, for a Member to say 4 p.m. 'with these few words', after he has spoken for more than 1½ hours? ” (Laughter.)

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Perhaps our best friend, the Leader of the Opposition, wants to hear somebody else, I think.” (Laughter.)

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I want the hon. Member to continue.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, for having allowed me to have my say. I also thank the Hon. Finance Minister for his nice Budget and thank him also in anticipation that circumstances next year would enable him to give us some relief. With these words, I close my speech.”

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—“ ఉపాధ్యక్ష, ఈ శాసన సభలో, లోటు లేకుండా బడ్జెటును ప్రవేశ పెట్టినందులకు గౌరవనీయులగు ఆర్థిక శాఖామంత్రిగారు, మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వము వారిని ఆధీనమింపచేచు ప్రజలతరపున వారికి నాకృతజ్ఞతను తెలుపుచున్నాను. కాంగ్రెస్ వారు ఆధికారములో ఉన్న గత నాలుగు సంవత్సరములలోను ప్రజాభివృద్ధికిగాను ఏమి విధానములను అనుసరించాలో అనే విషయములు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రవేశపెట్టిన బడ్జెటుల ద్వారా వెల్లడి అవుతవి. ఇదివరలో బడ్జెటులలో వచ్చుననుకొన్న లోటులను భరించేయటకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు కొత్త పన్నులు వేయవలసివచ్చింది. ఈ సంవత్సరంకూడా అదేవిధంగా కొత్త పన్నుల నేమైనా విధిస్తారేమోననిచెప్పి ప్రజలు భయభ్రాంతులైనారు. అటువంటి క్రజానీ కానికి ఈ సంవత్సరం ప్రభుత్వమువారు తమ బడ్జెటులో కొత్తపన్నులను వేటని విధించదలచేదని వారు చాలా ముశ్యంతిని కలిగినుండని చెప్పుటలో ఎంతమాత్రము సందేహములేదు. ఈ విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వాని ప్రజలు ఆధీనమిస్తున్నారు. ఇప్పటికే అపరిమితమైనటువంటి పన్నుల భారంచేత కృశించి ఉన్నటువంటి రైతుకు ప్రభుత్వ విధానం కొంత సంతృప్తి కలిగి చివరిని చెప్పేదిదానిలో అతిశయోక్తి లేదు

“ గత సంవత్సరం ఆర్థిక శాఖామంత్రిగారు బడ్జెటును ప్రవేశ పెట్టించు దానిలో 396 లక్షల రూపాయ లోటు వచ్చునని అంచనా వేసినారు. అందు నిమిత్తమై కొన్ని కొత్త పన్నులను విధించ దలచినామని చెప్పినారు. కాని ప్రజాభిప్రాయాన్ని గుర్తించి తరువాత వాటిని విధించ లేదు. బడ్జెటులో 396 లక్షలు లోటు చూపించబడి నప్పటికి సంవత్సరాంతరం రెక్కలుచూచినట్లైతే 5 లక్షలు మాత్రమే లోటు వచ్చి నట్లుగా ఈ బడ్జెటులో చెప్పినారు. గత సంవత్సరం బడ్జెటులో మొదట అంచనా వేసినంత లోటు రాకపోవటానికి కారణం, ఈ సంవత్సరం బడ్జెటులో మొట్ట మొదట చూపినపనులన్నియు పూర్తికాకపోవటంవలన అని ప్రభుత్వంవారు చెబు తున్నారు. మన రాష్ట్రం ఆహార ధాన్యాల విషయంలో కొరత ప్రాంతమని అందరికీ తెలిసినటువంటిదే. ఎన్నో Irrigation schemesలు చిన్నవి, పెద్దవి వెంటనే అమలు చేయడం అత్యవసరమని అందరు గుర్తించిన విషయమే. అయినప్పటికీ బడ్జెటులో మొదట చెప్పినట్లుగా అన్ని schemes లను పూర్తిచేయలేకపోవడం అంత సంతృప్తి కరంగా లేదని నా ఆభిప్రాయము. మన రాష్ట్రందేశములోని ఇతర రాష్ట్రములవలె

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కాకుండా శాంతముగా ఉన్నది. ఉత్తరాదిన ఉన్న పశ్చిమ బెంగాలు, United Provinces (ఉత్తర ప్రదేశ్) మొదలైన రాష్ట్రములలోవలె గాక మన రాష్ట్రంలో శాంతి భద్రతలు బాగుగనే ఉన్నవని చెప్పేవానికి సందేహములేదు. శాంతి భద్రతలు కాపాడుతున్నామని మన మృదాను ప్రభుత్వము హెచ్చు మొత్తములను ఖర్చుపెట్టుటకు అవసరములేదు. కాబట్టి అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తికిగాను ఇంకను ఎక్కువ డబ్బును వెచ్చించ వలెను. గత సంవత్సరములలో అధిక ఆహారధాన్యాలను పండించేదానికి ఎక్కువ ప్రోత్సాహము జరుగలేదేమిటనని నేను అనుకొంటున్నాను. Irrigation Conference లో మన Public Works మంత్రి అయిన గౌరవనీయులగు భక్తవత్సలం ఈ రాష్ట్రంలో ఉన్న అనేక చెరువులను మరమ్మత్తు చేయించటానికి ప్రభుత్వంవారు sanction లు చేయించున్నామని చెప్పినారు. కాని చెరువుల మరమ్మత్తులు జరుగుచున్నట్లు నాకు తెలియలేదు. దేశంలో జనసంఖ్య నానాటికి ఎక్కువ అవు తున్నది. ఈ అధిక జనాభాకు సరిపోయినంత ఆహారధాన్యాలను పండించుటకు ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రయత్నముచేయుట వారి విధి. కాని అధిక జనాభాకు సరిపోయినంతగా ఆహారోత్పత్తి జరుగుచున్నట్లు నాకు తోచుటలేదు. 394 లక్షల రూపాయలను మొట్టమొదట Grow More Food scheme లకు కేటాయింపు చేయించినారు. కాని అందులోనుంచి 188 లక్షల రూపాయలనే ఖర్చు పెట్టినట్లు, కొంతవరకు నెట్టర్ గవర్నమెంటువారు ఇస్తామని చెప్పిన Food grant లను పూర్తిగా ఖర్చుచేయలేక పోయినట్లును ప్రభుత్వంవారు మనకు తెలియజేసినారు. ఈ విషయం చాలా అసం తృప్తికరంగా ఉన్నదని చెప్పేదానికి ఎంతమాత్రము సందేహములేదు. ఈ విధంగా ఈ చిన్న చిన్న అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తి scheme లు పూర్తిచేయలేక పోవటానికి కారణం ఏమిటని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని అడిగితే, ఈ పనులన్నింటిని వెంటనే పూర్తిచేయుటకు కావలసినంత సిబ్బందిలేదని మంత్రిగారు చెబుతున్నారు. మన ప్రభుత్వంవారు తమ సిబ్బందిని ఏవి పనులు వెంటనేచేస్తే ఆచిరకాలంలో అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తి చేయగలమో అపనులకే నియమించడం మంచిది. రామపాదసాగరం, సంగమేశ్వరం మొదలైన పెద్ద పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టుల విషయంలో ఎందరో ఉద్యోగులను నియమించుచున్నట్లు కనిపించు చున్నది. ఈ పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టులను నిర్మించవద్దని నేను అనను. కాని త్వరగా పూరి అయి ఈ కట్టకాలంలో వెంటనే ఫలితాలు ఇచ్చే స్కీములను ముందుగా పూర్తి చేయించ గోరాను. పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టులయొక్క నిర్మాణము కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వముయొక్క అధిక స్థితిపై ఆధారపడి ఉన్నది. ఈ ప్రాజెక్టులకు ఎప్పుడు కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వంవారు తమ అనుమతి ఇస్తారోకూడా మనకు తెలియదు. కాబట్టి ఈ పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టుల నిమిత్తం పనిచేస్తున్నవారిలో కొందరినైనను, 50 వేల రూపాయలతోను, 20 వేల రూపాయల తోను పూర్తిచేయగలిగినటువంటి చిన్న చిన్న పనులు చేయించేదానికి కనక వేసికట్టే లే ఈ రెండు మూడు సంవత్సరముల కాలములో చాలావరకు అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తి చేయగలిగియుండేవారేమోనని నా అభిప్రాయము.

“అంతేకాకుండా ఆహారధాన్యాల నేకరణ, పంపకము విషయంలోకూడా ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఆనుసరించుచున్న విధానము ఏ విధంగాను సంకల్పపైకరంగా లేదని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. మా రాయలసీమలోని ప్రాంతాలలో చాలాభాగము మొట్టప్రదేశము, వర్షాధారమువల్లనే చాలాభాగము సాగుచేయబడుతోంది. ఈ మొట్టప్రదేశాలలో రాగులు, బొన్నలు మొదలైనటువంటి millets (చిరుధాన్యాల)నే రైతులు పండిస్తారు. ఈ చిరుధాన్యాలను వీడప్రజలే భుజిస్తారు. మధ్యతరగతివారు, భాగ్య వంతులు ఇతర జిల్లాలోవలె బియ్యాన్ని తింటారు, అంటే మా జిల్లాలో భాన్యాల కొన్ని సంవత్సరాలలో అధికంగానే ఉంటాయి. యీ మిగులు చిరు ధాన్యాలను ప్రభుత్వం

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వారు సకాలంలో రైతులవద్దనుంచిని అవి కావలసిన ఇతర జిల్లాలకు సరిగా పంపించ లేకపోతున్నారు. అందుచేత ఈ ధాన్యాలు కొనుక్కోనేవారు లేక రైతులు చాలా బాధలు పడేదాకీ కారణం అవుతున్నది. రైతులవద్ద ఉన్న జొన్నలను రాగులను, ఇతర ధాన్యాలను ఎవరు గవర్నమెంటుతరపున కొనటానికి రాకపోవటంచేత రైతులు వారి ఆవసరంకొద్దీ గవర్నమెంటువారు నిర్ణయించిన రేటుకన్న తక్కువ రేటుకు తమ ధాన్యాలకు అమ్ముకొనవలసి వస్తోంది. దీనివల్ల వారికి చాలా నష్టం సంభవించు చున్నదని చెప్పేదానికి సందేహములేదు. గవర్నమెంటు విజిన్సీ మా జిల్లాలలో millets ను నేరీరించే సందర్భంలో విఫలమైనదని చెప్పుటకు విచారీస్తున్నాను. ప్రభుత్వం వారు సకాలంలో millets ను కొనలేకపోలే ఆ ధాన్యాలు చెడిపోవటానికికూడా అవకాశం లున్నవి. ఈ ధాన్యాలు నేకరించే అవసరం లేకపోయినట్లైతే ఈ ధాన్యాలను ఒక జిల్లాలోనుంచి ఇంకొక జిల్లాలోకి రవాణాచేసుకొనుటకు అవకాశాలు కలుగజేయవలసి యున్నది. ఇప్పుడు ఉన్న movement ban వల్ల అధికంగా millets ండిన ప్రాంతాలలో అవి కొనుక్కోనేదానికి ఎవరు రాకను, అవికావలసినచోట్ల వాటిని ప్రజలు ఇతర ప్రాంతాలనుంచి కొనుక్కొని తీసుకొనిపోయేదానికి నిషేధం ఉండుటవల నను ప్రజలు ఎన్నో బాధలు పడవలసి వస్తోందని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. ఇటువంటి వివరత పరిస్థితులు మా కర్నూలు జిల్లాలో ఏర్పడినవని ప్రభుత్వమువారి దృష్టికి తీసుకొనివచ్చి నాను. కాబట్టి మా జిల్లాలలోనుంచి millets ను ఇతర జిల్లాలవాు కొనుక్కొని తీసు కొనిపోవుతుగాను movement restrictions ను రద్దుచేయవలసినదిగా కోరు చున్నాను. ఈ అభిప్రాయాన్నే తీర్మానరూపకంగా మా జిల్లా ఆహారకమిటీవారు ఏక గ్రీవంగా ఆహ్వానించి ప్రభుత్వానికి తెలియజేసినారు. జిల్లా కలెక్టరుగారుకూడా ఇటు వంటి అభిప్రాయాన్ని కలిగి ఉన్నట్లు ప్రభుత్వానికి అదేవిధంగా తెలియజేసిట్లు మాకు తెలుసును. అంతేకాకుండా ఆహారశాఖామత్వలగు గౌరవనీయులు శ్రీ రోడ్ విస్ట్రిబ్యూటరుగారు మా జిల్లాకు వచ్చినప్పుడు వారికి జిల్లాలోని పరిస్థితులను, రైతులు పడుచున్న బాధలను వారిదృష్టికి తీసుకొనివచ్చినాము వారు మా అభిప్రాయమును విన్నారు. రైతులు పడుచున్న బాధలను తొలగించటానికి ప్రయత్నిస్తామని చెప్పినారు కాని వారు ఈ విషయంలో వివిధమైన చర్య తీసుకొనినట్లులేదు. వారు ఏ విధంగా మా అభిప్రాయాలకు తగినంత శ్రద్ధ ఇవ్వుటలేదో మాకు అవగాహనకాకుండా ఉన్నది. ఇప్పుడైనను ప్రభుత్వమువారు మా జిల్లా Food Committee యొక్క తీర్మానాన్ని అంగీకరించి రైతులకు సహాయపడవలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.

“రైతులకు సేద్యము చేసుకొనుటలో అత్యవసరమైనట్టి వ్యవసాయ పనిముట్లు supply చేయబడుట లేదనే చెప్పాలి. పలుగులు, పారలు దొరకక రైతులు చాలా ఇబ్బందులు పడుతున్నారు. నామట్టుకు నేనొక చిన్న వ్యవసాయదారుడను. నాకు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకొనుటకుగాను పలుగులు, పారలు కావాలని ఉద్యోగిగలకు యాడు మాసముల క్రితము నాకుకొని వున్నాడు. కాని ఇంతవరకు నాకు అవి supply చేయ బడలేదు. ఒక M.L.C. యొక్క దరఖాస్తుకే ఇంతవిలువ చూపించబడుతుంటే, ఇతర సామాన్యరైతుల పరిస్థితి ఏ విధంగా ఉంటుందో స్పష్టము అలాచింతగోర్తాను. ముఖ్యంగా మా మెట్ట ప్రాంతాలలో పలుగులు, పారలు లేకుండా రైతులు ఏవిధంగా వ్యవసాయం చేసుకోగలరో నాకు అవగాహన అవకుండా ఉన్నది వ్యవసాయ దారుకు కావలసిన agricultural implements ఇవ్వకుండా అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తి చేయి, అధిక ఆహారోత్పత్తి చేయి అని అంటే ఏవిధంగా సేద్యము చేయటానికి అతనికి ఆశక్తి కలుగుతుందో ప్రభుత్వంవారు గుర్తించాలి. ఈ విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వంవారికి అనేకసార్లు petition ల ద్వారా తెలియజేసుకొనినాము. ఈ శాసన సభలో మొత్తం

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లను ఈ విషయంలో ప్రజ్ఞిస్తే వారు ఆయా జిల్లాలకు agricultural implements ఇప్పించినామని చెబుతున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వం వారు ఏదో కొద్దిగా supply చేసియుండవచ్చును. కాని రైతులయొక్క అవసరాలకు అది ఏమాత్రం సరిపోదని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. ఎక్కువ రైతులు వల్లి వ్యవసాయ శాఖవారిని అడిగినా వారు ఈ agricultural implements సరిపోయినన్ని కావటంలేదని అంటున్నారు. వ్యవసాయ పనిముట్లు లేదే రైతులు నేడవ్యక్తు చేసుకోలేరని అధిక అవారోత్పత్తి చేయడమీద ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఎక్కువ ప్రాధాన్యము వుంచినారు. కాబట్టి ఈ పనిముట్లను రైతులకు కావలసినన్ని ఇప్పించవలసినదిగా కోరుతున్నాను.

“Tractor లచేత మెట్ట ప్రాంతాలను దున్నించి పెద్దపెద్ద భూభాగాలను నేడవ్యక్తు చేయించ దలచినామని ప్రభుత్వంవారు అంటున్నారు. కాని ఈ tractor లతో దున్నటం ఉండవలసికంటే సంవత్సరికరంగా లేదని నా అభిప్రాయము మా జిల్లాకు మూడో నాలుగో tractors ను ఇచ్చియున్నారు. ఈ tractor లు ఇంతవరకు చాలా కొద్దిపాటిభూమి నే దున్నినట్లుగా నాకు తెలిసినది tractor సహాయముతో ఒక రోజుకు ఎనిమిదినుంచి పది ఎకరాలవరకుకూడా దున్నవచ్చును. అంటే సంవత్సరంలో పొడిగా వుండే అయిదు, ఆరు నెలల కాలంలో ఒక్కొక్క tractor అయిదువారు వందల ఎకరాల భూమిని ఎక్కడాదున్ని సాగులోనికి తీసుకొని వచ్చేదానికి చాలా అవకాశాలున్నాయని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. కాబట్టి ఈ tractor లు పడిచే ఉద్యోగులకు అవసరమైన ఉత్తర్యులు ఇచ్చి హెచ్చు భూమిని సాగులోనికి తీసుకొని వచ్చుటకు దోహదమిస్తార నమ్ముచున్నాను.

“మన రాష్ట్రంలోని ప్రజలు చాలామంది సరి అయిన గృహవసతి లేక బాధలు పడుతున్నారు. ఈ విషయం ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియనటువంటిదాదు. ప్రజలలో చాలా భాగము చిన్న చిన్న రైతులు కూలీలని చేసుకొని జీవించేటటువంటివారు. వీరు నివసించేవి పూరి యిల్లు. ఒక్కొక్క ఇంటిలో ఆరుదువందనుంచి పదిమందవరకు నివసించవలసి వస్తోంది. వారి ఇల్లల్లో కుగ్గురు నలుగురుకన్న నివసించుటకు స్థలముండదు కాబట్టి చాలామంది ఇంటిమందు ఉన్న ప్రజలలోనే కాలక్షేపణచేసి వలసి వస్తోంది. పగలస్తమానం పొలాలలో పనిచేసి రాత్రికి ఇంటికివచ్చి ఏ అరుగుమీదవో బయటవో పడుకొనవలసిన పరిస్థితిలో వున్నారు. ఇటువంటివారికి సహాయపడడం ప్రభుత్వంవారి విద్యుత్ ధర్మం. గత సంవత్సరం మా జిల్లా cyclone వల్ల చెబ్బి తన్నది. విరితమైన గాలివల్ల పేదవారి యిల్లు అనేకం పాడైపోయినాయి. వారికి చెప్పుకొనదగినటువంటి సహాయము ప్రభుత్వము చేయలేకపోయింది. గృహ వసతిలేని కారణంచే ప్రజలు చాలా యిబ్బందులు పడుతున్నారు. అనారోగ్యకరమైనటువంటి ప్రదేశాలలో విదేశీవిధంగా కాలక్షేపం చేస్తున్న కారణంచేత పేద జనులు కుష్టు, క్షయ మొదలైనటువంటి దారుణ రోగాలకు గురి అవుతున్నారు. ఈతి గాధవల్ల బాధపడడమే కాకుండా అంటు రోగాలవల్లకూడా వారు ఎన్నో ఇబ్బందులకు గురి కావలసి వస్తోంది. గ్రామాలలో గృహవసతులను అభివృద్ధిచేయుటకు ప్రభుత్వము నిమిచేయుచున్నదో నాకు అపకాశన కాకుండా ఉన్నది. గృహవసతిశాఖను చూచుచున్నటువంటి మంత్రిగారిని ఈ విషయమై ప్రశ్న వేస్తే ప్రభుత్వముయొక్క ఆర్థికస్థితి బాగుపడిన తరువాత గ్రామాలలో గృహనిర్మాణానికి పూనుకుంటారని జవాబు చెప్పినారు. గృహనిర్మాణ సకారం ఘోషించుట అక్కడక్కడ విర్వాటు చేయబడినాయని వాటికి ప్రభుత్వం సహాయం చేస్తోందని మంత్రిగారు అంటున్నారు. మా కర్నూలులో రెండు సంవత్సరముల క్రిందట ఒక గృహ నిర్మాణసంస్థ విర్వాటు చేయబడినది. కాని

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ఇంతవరకు అది గృహములను కట్టించినట్లు లేదు. ఈ విధంగా కాకుండా రాష్ట్రమం దంతటను జిల్లాలవారీగా ఒక plan ప్రకారము గృహ నిర్మాణానికి పూనుకొనవలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.

“Prohibition జయప్రదంగా కొనసాగించబడుట లేదని కొందరు గౌరవ సభ్యులు విమర్శించినారు. ఈ సంస్కరణ విఫలమై పోయినదని దీనివలన ప్రభుత్వం వారికి 17 కోట్ల రూపాయల ఆదాయం తగ్గిపోయిందేగాని, ప్రజలకు ఏ విధమైన లాభం కలుగలేదని వ్యతిరేకపక్షంవారు అంటున్నారు. వారి అభిప్రాయాలు సరి అయినవి కావని నేను మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. మధ్యపాన నిషేధంవలన వీడవారికి ఎంతో లాభం కలుగలేదని చెప్పేదానికి ఎంతమాత్రం సందేహంలేదు. ఇదివరలో కూలిచేసుకొని జీవించే కార్మికులలో చాలామంది వారి దిన ఆదాయంలో నూటికి 80, 70 వంతుల వరకుకూడా వెచ్చించి తాగివేసి ఇంటికివచ్చి ఆడవారిని హింసించి నానా బాధలు పెట్టుచుండెడివారు. ఈనాడు ఆటువంటి రాక్షస కృత్యాలు ఎక్కడా కనిపించుటలేదు. మధ్యపాన నిషేధాన్ని ఆమలు చేయడంలో కొన్ని లోటుపాట్లు ఉండవచ్చును. వాటిని సవరించుటకు ప్రభుత్వవారు కృషి చేస్తారని ఆనిస్తున్నాను. ఈ సంస్కరణ అమలు చేయవలసిన ఉద్యోగులు మరికొంత హెచ్చు శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనినచో మధ్యపాన నిషేధము సంపూర్ణంగా జయప్రదమగును అని నా అభిప్రాయము. ఈ department ను కూడా police శాఖవారు చూడనట్లు చేయవలెను. పోలీసులకు భయపడి యెవరు దొంగతనంగా సారాయి తయారుచేయరు.

“పోలీసు డిపార్టుమెంటువారు శాంతి భద్రతలను కాపాడుటలో కొన్నికొన్ని ప్రాంతాలలో విఫలంగా వర్తించుచున్నారని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. ఈ మధ్యన మా జిల్లా బోర్డు ఎలక్షన్లు జరిపినారు. నేను జిల్లా కాంగ్రెస్ కమిటీ అధ్యక్షుడను. జిల్లాలోని వివిధ ప్రాంతాలలో కాంగ్రెస్ తరపున సభ్యులను నియామకము చేయవలసిన బాధ్యత నాపైన ఉన్నది. నేను జిల్లాలో పర్యటించేసి కాంగ్రెస్ candidate లకు ప్రజలు తమ ఓట్లు ఇచ్చేటట్లు చూడాలి. కాని పోలీసువారు నీవు కాంగ్రెస్ నాయకుడవు. జిల్లా బోర్డుకు president గా ఎన్నిక అవటానికి ప్రయత్నించేస్తావు. ప్రత్యర్థులకు నీకు కలహాలు రావచ్చు, కొట్లాటలు జరుగవచ్చు అని చెప్పి నాపైన మరికొంతమంది పైన 107 వ సెక్షన్ క్రింద proceedings పెట్టారు, ఇది చాలా అక్రమమని నా అభిప్రాయము. ప్రభుత్వంవారికూడా ఈ విషయాన్ని తెలియ చేసినాము, కాని ఇంతవరకు వారు police లకు ఏ విధమైన సహాయమీ కొరతల్లు తెలియబడలేదు న్యాయాన్వయావిచక్షణచేసి శాంతి భద్రతలను కాపాడవలసిన పోలీసువారు ఈ విధంగా చేస్తూవుంటే ప్రభుత్వంయొక్క పలుకుబడి దెబ్బ తింటుంది. దీనికి కారణం పోలీసు అధికారులలో విశేష విద్యాజ్ఞానం లేకపోవడమేమైనా అనుకొంటున్నాను. ముఖ్యంగా 3rd form, 4th form చదువుకొనినవారి చేతులలోవిశేష అధికారాలు ఉండడమువలన, qualification తోనిమిత్తం లేకుండా Head constables ను Sub-Inspector లుగా వేయటవలన వారిపైన కచ్చితలు తెలుసుకొనకుండా promotion లు ఇచ్చుచుండడమువలన ఇటువంటి పనులు జరుగుచున్నవని నా అభిప్రాయము. పోలీసులు అక్రమంగా వర్తించుంటే రాజీవు కాలంలో చాలా కష్టాలు కలుగుతాయని గవర్నమెంటువారికి విన్నవించుకొంటున్నాను.

“ఆహార ధాన్యాలను పంపకంచేయటంలో విఫలమైన చూపడం మంచిదికాదు. రాయలసీమలోని ప్రజలయొక్క అలవాట్లు అంతటా ఒకలాగే ఉంటాయి. పరిస్థితులుకూడా ఒకేమాదిరిగా వుంటాయి. అన్ని జిల్లాలలోకూడ వీడప్రజలే millets తింటారు. మధ్య తరగతివారు భాగ్యవంతులు బియ్యమే తింటారు. కాని ప్రభుత్వం

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వారి లెక్కప్రకారం మా జిల్లాకు ఇరు ప్రక్కలైన అనంతపురం జిల్లాలోను, కడప జిల్లాలోను బియ్యం తినేవారు 37%, 38%, 36% అని ఉంటే మార్కెట్ లు జిల్లాలో 17% జనాభా యే వరిబియ్యంమీద ఆధారపడినవారని చూపినారు. ఈ జిల్లాలోని టిలో ప్రజలయొక్క భోజన అలవాటులు ఒకేమాదిరిగా ఉంటాయి. అటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో ఇంత తేడా ఎందుకు వచ్చిందో తెలియటంలేదు. అధికారులను ఈ విషయంగురించి అడిగితే కంట్రోల్స్ కు పూర్వం ఈ జిల్లాకు 17% బియ్యము మాత్రమే వచ్చుచుండెడివని అంటున్నారు. వారి లెక్కలు సరిగావని నా అభిప్రాయము. మా జిల్లాలోనుంచి పోయే రైలువార్గము విస్తరింప లేకపోవడంవలన, జిల్లాలోని కొన్ని తాలూకాలకు supply చేయించవలసిన బియ్యము బల్లారి జిల్లాలో ఉండేటటువంటి గుంతకల్లు, హన్స్వేట మొదలైన రైల్వే స్టేషన్లకు book చేసి అప్పటనుంచి మా జిల్లాకు రోడ్లమీద తీసుకొని వచ్చేవారు. కాబట్టి మా జిల్లా ప్రజలే తినేబియ్యం చుట్టుపట్లైన బల్లారి, అనంతపురం లెక్కలలోనికి పోయివుంటాయి. ఇటువంటి కారణాలవలన కర్షకులు జిల్లాకు తక్కువ కోటా నిర్ణయించారని అధికారులతో చెప్పుకుంటే వారు వినుకోరు. ఈ విషయాన్ని ప్రభుత్వంవారు పరిశీలించ గోరొస్తాను.

“ఈ రాష్ట్రంలోని ప్రజలకు సరిపోయినంత ఆహారం పండించేందుకు ప్రభుత్వం వారు రైతులకు సహకరించాలి. విశేషం irrigation scheme లను ఆమలు చేయించాలి. విద్యుచ్ఛక్తి విషయంలోనూడా మా జిల్లాకు ప్రాధాన్యమివ్వాలి. కడప-కర్నూలు కాలవ, తంగభద్రానది ప్రక్కన విద్యుచ్ఛక్తి connections ఇచ్చినట్లయితే వ్యవసాయాభివృద్ధికి ఎక్కువ అవకాశం కలుగుతుంది. ఈ విషయాల నన్నిటిని ప్రభుత్వం వారు పరిశీలించగోరొస్తాను. ఈ మాటలతో నేను విరమిస్తున్నాను.”

* SRI D. MANJAYA HEGDE :—“ I thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to say a few words. I am not one of those who condemn the Budget for the sake of opposition; nor have I found sufficient reasons for congratulating the Hon. Minister for Finance over this Budget. I have been thinking deeply about this Budget, and I say this is not satisfactory, this is disappointing. It gives no relief to the taxpayer, nor does it give any hope for lessening the burden of taxation in the future. People are groaning under heavy taxation. Distress and dissatisfaction prevail everywhere. Under these circumstances, we are faced with this kind of Budget. But who is responsible for this state of affairs? I say the Government themselves. In spite of the warning given by the Central Government, in spite of the suggestions made by some people belonging to Congress party and other parties, the Congress Government rushed through and introduced prohibition, without caring for the consequences. As a result, there is a big drain on the exchequer and the Government became so desperate and restless that they went on taxing people. Of all the taxes we have now to bear, the sales tax is the most important one and the most heavy one. It invades every man's house, whether rich or poor and makes him miserable. In spite of these heavy taxes, the success of prohibition is still doubtful. The practicability of the working of the prohibition policy is not at all encouraging. I think the Government must take a serious view of the working of the Prohibition Act, and if possible, appoint a committee to go through the whole question and examine the details of the real working of this prohibition policy.

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"Next, of all of the problems that face us, the food problem is the most prominent; but the Government have given little attention or not sufficient attention to this problem. For agriculture, they have provided a very small amount, not even Rs. 2 crores. Even in respect of the Grow More Food campaign, we are making very slow progress. This problem must receive our serious attention and the grow-more-food campaign should grow with the same speed as our population grows. Otherwise, a whole nation may have to face starvation in the future. It is therefore better to curtail expenditure on all other items and give more money, at least one-third of the total revenue, to this food item. Then only we can achieve our object of self-sufficiency in food.

"As regards education, although the Government are faced with financial difficulties, they have provided a decent sum for this; but in spending this amount, I appeal to the Government to give special attention to the spread of elementary and secondary education in the mufassal and interior parts also. If it is not possible for Government to open new schools in backward regions, it is better that they give all facilities to private agencies which may come forward, imposing on them few conditions only for the sake of having proper control. In this way, I think education should be spread in the interior parts also.

"Again, in matters of public importance, the Government seem to move slowly. Justice delayed is always justice denied. For example, in the recent strike of motor transport workers in South Kanara, the Government seemed to have taken an indifferent attitude. Although the motor owners protested against the Tribunal's decision and requested Government to settle the matter finally, they did not move promptly. The result was there was a strike which upset the whole transport system. I appeal to the Government to intervene and set things right lest the strike should revive again. With these remarks, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me."

* SRI S. JAYARAM REDDI :—"Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, since the Hon. Finance Minister has hoped that all Members of this House would help the Government with constructive criticisms only, I do not venture to say anything without any feeling of responsibility. This Budget has been criticized as colourless, featureless, unimaginative, taxless and tactless too, and a carry-on Budget, because it does not catch the imagination of the public—it has been characterized like that by a few critics; but those who made those remarks forget the fact that this is the first year when a big policy like prohibition has been put into practice and this Government have had to incur a loss of nearly Rs. 17 crores in this respect. I was one of those who were thinking that the Hon. Finance Minister will find it difficult to make both ends meet at the end of the year; but fortunately, I now see he has been able to survive in spite of this drop in the income, and he has been able to present a balanced Budget. One thing I would stress on the Finance Minister and the Government as a whole is the

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same feeling as was expressed by the hon. Mr. Suryanarayana Rao about retrenchment. I have been telling the Hon. Finance Minister privately as well as in public that this question of retrenchment is one on which serious thought should be bestowed and there is room for securing retrenchment, and that only when retrenchment is effected, sufficient amounts can be distributed to the nation-building activities. When an eminent member like Mr. Suryanarayana Rao after giving sufficient thought and bestowing sufficient attention on the subject offers that suggestion, I think the Government should seriously think over the matter and do something in this direction. Out of Rs. 55 crores, the Government are spending nearly Rs. 23 crores on establishment, which works to 40 per cent of the total revenues. That means that establishment alone is consuming a lot of the income of the State. Next comes Education which takes nearly Rs. 10 crores and then the Public Works Department, and for new works there is nothing left actually. Ultimately, every year when the Budget is presented, member after member criticises the Budget saying that nothing new is provided for, that it is only a humdrum budget, and that the Finance Minister is simply making some changes in the figures here and there and presenting the same old Budget, the same old memorandum, etc., perhaps with a slight change in colour—for instance there is a change in the colour of the book containing his printed speech.

“ Another thing I should like to refer to is that in the Central Budget, there is a proposal for a planning commission; and a planning commission has actually been constituted by the Central Government. Why not, in our State also, a similar idea be taken up and a commission appointed for bestowing serious thought over our nation-building activities? Of course a planning committee was constituted some years back, of which Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and the present Chief Minister were members. They toured the whole province and submitted a report; I do not know what has become of that report, whether it has been given effect to at all. In the same way as has been suggested in the Central Budget to have an Estimates Committee, an Estimates Committee can also be thought of here. I was told that in the Standing Finance Committees of the Central Government, they could not command sufficient time to scrutinize all the items of expenditure brought before them and that is why, an Estimates Committee was constituted. I therefore suggest that an Estimates Committee may be constituted to go into details of the expenditure incurred.

“ As regards the general features of the Budget, I can only say that this Budget as a whole has not caught the imagination of the villagers. There is a general feeling that even those members who are elected from the villages do not care for the welfare of the villagers and they do not press for sufficient allotments being made for village and rural communications and other things. I have heard even responsible legislators and politicians saying that hereafter village associations and ryots' associations should be formed just to press the claims of the villages and that otherwise

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the Government are likely to overlook the claims of the villagers. My feeling is that after the introduction of the adult suffrage against which the hon. Mr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar was very vehement in protesting and condemning, when the new elections come, unless you satisfy the villagers, they are not likely to co-operate with you and they are likely to try to assert themselves. The present needs of the village are a good road, a hospital near-by and above all, the villager wants electricity. Electricity is the craze now. As an agriculturist myself, I find that if I do my agriculture with electricity, it is more paying and economical than to have bulls for baling out water. Especially when agriculture is paying a good return nowadays, people are anxious to have electricity; everywhere people are anxious to have electric power and it is high time Government gave anxious thought to this aspect of the question. Of course there are the hydro-electric projects, but on account of the failure of the monsoon, we are helpless, and I hope that the Government will supplement the electricity generated in these hydro-electric projects by having more thermal stations in the province.

“ Sir, one thing about which we are having anxious thought is the question of the well subsidy scheme. I am one of those who felt that if at all anything had been done in the villages for the Grow More Food campaign, it was the well subsidy scheme. Of course, there might have been some misuse here and there. When our Government made representations to the Central Government that in this State the well subsidy scheme worked well, the Government of India reconsidered their previous decision and sanctioned the necessary amount. If the grant provided by the Government of India is not considered sufficient, more money must be made available from the finances of the State so that a larger number of wells may be sunk in villages. 4-45 P.M.

“ There is another thing that is often required now-a-days by the villagers and that is the tractor plough. Formerly, the villagers were not hiring the tractors, but now the tractor plough has caught the imagination of the people and they want that every piece of land must be ploughed with tractor at least once in five years. My experience is not the same as that of my hon. Friend, Mr. Sankara Reddi. He was saying that he was not able to get cart tyres. On the other hand, the complaint is that the rich and the influential people get them but not the ordinary man. These tractors will be more helpful to the small people who own only small holdings rather than the rich mirasdars here and there.

“ I would like next to say a few words about Harijan Welfare. Provision has been made in the Budget for only house-sites to Harijans or ex-service men. The Government acquire the lands and give them. But, my experience has been that merely providing house-sites for these people will not do any good to them. I would like the Hon. Finance Minister to give them half-grant and the other half will be found by villagers to meet the cost. It is only then that some progress can be made in the matter of providing proper housing accommodation. As a matter of fact, when

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the Hon. Mr. Parameswaran was in our village a few days back, the villagers told him that they were prepared to give Rs. 5,000 for meeting half the cost if the Government came forward with the other half by way of grant. I am sure there are also other villages which are prepared to do likewise. I think such offers may be taken up by the Government and I hope the Hon. Finance Minister will not stand in the way, because it is already one of the recommendations of the Harijan Welfare Committee.

"Then, Sir, some of the representatives of my district have stated in the Lower House that a Development Board must be formed for the Ramnad district. Of course, I need not reiterate the fact that Ramnad is one of the backward districts, if not more backward than the Ceded districts, but I would like my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranga Reddi, to tour the Ramnad district. I am very sorry to state that most of the colleges which propped up during the war days like mushrooms are now suffering for want of facilities. I understand that even the Alagappa Chettiyar College is not progressing well, I need not say anything about the Sivaganga College and I am sure the Hon. Finance Minister knows more about the college than myself. In my district, minor irrigation schemes are no doubt pushed through with some vigour and I should not fail to thank the Government for carrying out the works expeditiously in our district.

"I would next like to say one or two words about the remarks made by some hon. Members relating to the administration, police activities, etc. The experience gained by me so far as my district is concerned, especially in the Watrap area, where the communist trouble was at its height, shows that without the co-operation of the people no amount of police help will bring much results. In fact, there are people who are even prepared to catch hold of the communists and hand them over to the police. That is the sort of spirit that is required and without that kind of spirit no headway can be made in putting down these communist activities. Unless therefore, the legislators and other people go to the villagers and persuade them to co-operate in the matter they will not be prepared to come forward for fear of being persecuted by the communists whenever police do not come in proper time to their rescue.

"Then, Sir, about Prohibition, I have heard many hon. Members saying both inside this House and outside that Prohibition has been a failure, but as far as my knowledge goes it is not a failure, except in places where there is only a small police force to check illicit distillation, etc. I do not think there is any illicit distillation among the villagers. Only the very intelligent and educated people make use of these drinks and not the ordinary humdrum labourers. I can say so with confidence that this Prohibition has helped to raise the standard of living of the poor agricultural classes in most of the places. So, Sir, the propaganda that Prohibition has failed comes only from the higher and educated classes. As a matter of fact, it is these people that are more bent upon seeing that Prohibition is removed and again the old

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order is brought into existence. The other day, just only one week after I came to Madras, I had the honour of being invited to a place—I do not want to mention the place where I went where in the presence of distinguished persons the whole lot of people were drinking and one of my friends had the cheek to tell me, you had better go and tell your Ministers that Prohibition is a damned failure. I was told that the Prohibition staff was also there, but yet numerous bottles of foreign liquor were used freely in that place. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: 'Probably they are permit holders'.) I do not know whether they are permit holders or not, and I hope the Hon. Minister will investigate into the matter. As the Hon. Minister himself has stated, if there are such a large number of permit holders it is better that Prohibition is removed.

" Then, Sir, one word about the Sales Tax. I am also a small merchant, besides being an agriculturist. I am also on the Sales Tax Advisory Committee and so I would like to make a few suggestions to the Hon. Finance Minister who is keen on getting as much money as possible from the 'Kamadhenu' to cover all his deficits. Though he has been issuing circular after circular to collect as much money as possible from this source, still I think there are some leakages. I hope the Hon. Finance Minister will try to book those persons who are not paying this tax properly to the Government. I am sure that if sufficient interest is taken and all the money that is due to the Government is collected, even the rate of taxation could be reduced.

" In conclusion, Sir, I would like to say a few words about one of the most controversial questions about which Mr. Govindachar and others have referred, namely, the question of the separation of the Andhra province. Sir, I am one of those who were glad that the Andhra province did not come into existence. I never mince matters, but one thing I have to say. When the Opposition Leader was saying that all the Andhra Ministers are not for the Andhra province, I am sorry that no Andhra Minister contradicted it. (Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao: 'Because it is a fact'.) Whatever it may be, I think the Andhra province is not likely to come to fruition in the near future and I request the Government not to hold up the bigger projects on that account. Even if there should be any trouble with regard to these projects, I am sure that some sort of gentlemen agreement can be arrived at after consultation between the Hon. Finance Minister on the one side and the others on the other side so that the schemes in which the Andhras or the Tamils are interested may be carried out successfully.

" With these few words I once again congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for having presented a Balanced Budget and a very safe Budget."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 8th March 1950.